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NO. 7903

Desperate dig for victims as thousands remain buried; Iran seeks help

'I was crushed into a tree, killing my children. I was thrown several metres, landed up by the olive trees': survivor

# Iran quake toll reaches 35,000

Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Israel offer help; Iran accepts US aid

TEHRAN, June 22, (Agencies): Rescue workers and dazed survivors struggled today to dig thousands of dead and injured from the rubble of an earthquake believed to have killed 35,000 people in northwest Iran.

A dozen towns and hundreds of villages were ruined by the shock which spread across two provinces near the Caspian Sea early yesterday.

The known dead number 28,950 but many more remain to be found. Some 100,000 people were injured and the homes of 400,000 were destroyed. The quake is the worst on record in Iran.

More shocks followed the big quake. Interior Minister Abdullah Nouri said a main road in the disaster zone, cleared yesterday, was blocked by a fresh landslide today.

Iranian television showed doctors tending victims on stretchers in a makeshift hospital in a parking lot.

Workers uncovered the bald head of a surviving man in the ruins of his home and used

## Amir sends cable of condolences

KUWAIT, June 22, (Kuna): HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah today sent a cable of condolences in his name and on behalf of the people of Kuwait to Iranian President Ali Hashemi Rafsanjani and the Iranian people on the devastating earthquake which hit the northwestern region of the Iranian Islamic Republic.

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Salem Al Sabah also sent a cable of condolences to Rafsanjani on the earthquake.

a hypodermic syringe to pass water from a canteen to his mouth before digging further. In another shot, the trunk and legs of a corpse could be seen sticking out from under a huge block of concrete.

President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani visited the hardest hit area, including the town of Roudbar in the Caspian province of Gilan, where at least 6,000 died.

He told reporters that Iran, fiercely proud of its self-reliance since Ayatollah Khomeini's 1979 Islamic revolution, would accept foreign help for quake victims.

Rafsanjani said "nothing worth mentioning" was left of towns and villages he saw during a helicopter flight over the quake zone. Gilan province and adjoining Zanjan have a population of about four million people.

Four of Iran's bitter enemies joined in offers to help — the United States, Israel, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. A senior US official in Washington said the American offer was accepted.

"The catastrophe is so serious..." Rafsanjani told the official news agency IRNA. "International help is needed. We should accept the help that is offered."

He said the greatest need was for heavy equipment — especially cranes to lift huge pieces of rubble.

Iran told the Swiss-based League of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies that it needed medicine, tents, blankets, food, trucks, cranes and bulldozers.

It said it did not need doctors and other experts or blood supplies, sniffer dogs or used clothing.

At Manjil in Gilan province, Parvin Nemati clutched the headless body of one daughter wrapped in a blanket. Her husband and relief workers unearthed the body of another daughter, 10-year-old Fatemeh, an Iranian correspondent reported.

A man in Roudbar told Iranian television "a rock as big as a building" crashed into his home, killing four of his six children. His wife said she lay in the ruins for hours with one of the surviving children beside her.

The state-run television interviewed one middle-aged man from Roudbar, a mountain-side village in Gilan province, who said he was sleeping when the tremor struck.

"It was so strong," he said. "I was thrown several metres, I ended up by the olive trees," outside his home.

"Then a big boulder hit the house. The house collapsed. I lost all four of my children."

Masked rescuers in white aprons pulled dust-covered bodies from under concrete slabs, in scenes shown on television. Corpses were laid on blocks of ice in open trucks.

"There is not a single house in this area which has been left standing," farmer Ali Mohammadi said in Roudbar.

The UN disaster relief organization in Geneva said it was told by the Iranian Foreign Ministry that the death toll was expected

(Continued on Page 2)



Victims of the earthquake being transferred to Tehran for medical treatment. (Reuter wirephoto)



Victims of the earthquake are being evacuated from an airforce plane at Tehran airport. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Tehran seeks medicine

Doctors, rescuers not welcomed

LONDON, June 22, (Reuters):

Countries from around the world sprang to the aid of Iran's earthquake victims today setting aside past animosity and offering special help, emergency supplies or cash.

But Iran said through the Geneva-based League of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies that while it needed medicine and tents it would not welcome doctors and rescue workers.

It has also said it neither needed nor wanted blood supplies, sniffer dogs or used clothing.

Red Cross League Secretary-General Paer Steenbeck told a Geneva news conference Iran had requested antibiotics, tents

and blankets for an estimated 400,000 homeless, as well as food, transport and heavy equipment.

He said the Iranian Red Crescent Society had made clear doctors, technicians and other rescue personnel were not needed.

He recalled that unneeded material clogged the supply lines after the 1988 earthquake in Soviet Armenia.

"The negative lists are just as important as the positive lists. Armenia went wrong because people sent the wrong things," he said.

Offers of help poured into Iran from all over the world.

Iraq, Iran's Gulf war foe, and the United States said they were ready to provide any aid Iran

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The European Economic Community said today it was dispatching \$2.4 million worth of emergency aid, doubling its earlier pledge.

It

## US using raid as a pretext

Breaking off talks

BAGHDAD, June 22, (Reuters):

The United States' decision to break off talks with the PLO is pushing the Middle East towards war, the Palestine Liberation Organization said after a 24-hour meeting in the Iraqi capital.

Condemning President George Bush for suspending 18 months of US-PLO dialogue last Wednesday, the PLO executive committee said: "The American decision is pushing the region ... to a new war and an explosion on all levels."

It accused Washington of using a Palestinian commando raid on an Israeli beach on May 30 as a pretext to break the dialogue.

"The American decision to suspend the dialogue contradicts the responsible attitude a superpower like the United States must take towards the Middle East peace process and world peace in general," the PLO communiqué said.

"It was in fact, a blow to the whole peace process and to the credibility of the US administration."

Bush broke off the talks because he said the PLO had failed to condemn the raid, despite leader Yasir Arafat's statement that the raid was making little progress.

(Continued on Page 14)

See also related story Page 13

Nelson Mandela shows off a traditional African robe given him after a speech in the centre of Haarlem on Thursday.

The rally was attended by tens of thousands of people in one of the poorest areas of New York City. (Reuter wirephoto)

See story on Page 9

Two 16-year-old Liberian girls pose on either side of a scarecrow made from a dead government soldier's skull wearing his helmet in a village in the jungle north of Buchanan. The girls are painted white as they undergo a day-long initiation rite for their passage into womanhood. After paint is washed off the girls are then to marry. (Reuter wirephoto)

See story on Page 7

## State Department warns Americans in Middle East

WASHINGTON, June 22, (Reuters): The United States, reacting to hostile Arab statements following its decision to break off contacts with the PLO, warned Americans abroad and especially in the Middle East yesterday to take extra security precautions.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher, in a statement to be sent to US embassies and missions worldwide, said Americans needed to be aware of rising tensions in the Middle East.

"The Department of State recommends

that American citizens travelling abroad, and particularly in the Middle East, exercise extra caution," he said.

President George Bush on Wednesday announced his decision to suspend diplomatic contacts with the PLO until it condemned two attempted seaborne raids on Israel and disciplined the perpetrators.

The PLO's representative in Washington, Hasan Abdel Rahman, said yesterday the PLO was still investigating the raids and could

not say whether the organisation would issue a condemnation.

Rahman said the US decision was surprising since Bush seemed to have accepted the PLO's statement that it did not condone the attacks and was investigating them.

He said he believed the US government buckled under pressure from Israel and the main pro-Israel lobby in Washington, the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (Aipac), as well as pro-Israel Congressmen.

Pakistani minister killed: Unidentified gunmen killed three people, including a Pakistani provincial minister, at a mosque during Friday prayers.

Minister without portfolio Malih Haji Eid Muhammad Notezai was entering the mosque near his home in Baluchistan capital, Quetta, when four gunmen opened fire, police said.

The other two people killed were hit by stray bullets. At least three people were injured. (Reuters)

Ban on housemaids for Kuwait: A ban was imposed with immediate effect by the Sri Lankan government on women going to work as housemaids in Kuwait, Labour Ministry officials said on Thursday.

Allegedly out of 90,000 Sri Lankan women in Kuwait, an estimated 30,000 remain jobless.

One ministry official said "it is an absolutely shocking situation" as the majority of these women are recruited by illegal job agencies run by foreign nationals. (Kuwait)

Polozkoy, Lobov win leadership: Conservative Ivan Polozkoy and moderate Oleg Lobov emerged from a field of seven candidates to win the first round of voting yesterday for the leadership of the new Russian Communist Party.

Polozkoy won 1,017 votes in a secret ballot at the party's founding Congress while Lobov received 848, it was announced at the Soviet Foreign Ministry Press Centre in Moscow.

Earlier report Page 9

Egypt's soccer fan suicides: A 40-year-old Egyptian hanged himself over Egypt's elimination from the World Cup finals in a 1-0 loss to England on Thursday, police said.

"My life came to an end when Egypt's match with England ended," said a suicide note found by his body.

Police said yesterday that Sayed Abdel-Al, a government employee said to have been suffering depression, was found dead in his flat where he lived alone in the Mediterranean city of Damietta. (Reuters)

Imelda will be tried in Philippines: President Corazon Aquino said yesterday that former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos will be tried "at the proper time" in the Philippines for crimes she allegedly committed in the country.

Police free suspects: South African police freed yesterday 11 whites detained following allegations of a plot to kill black leader Nelson Mandela and President F.W. de Klerk and said the investigation was making little progress.

See also Page 9

Daring

A masked Palestinian youth stares in the camera with a slingshot in his hands on Thursday during clashes with police in the Jerusalem neighbourhood of Silwan. Earlier in the day a group of Palestinians had attacked an Israeli ambulance with stones, smashing a window. (Reuters photo)

(See Page 14)

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(Continued on Page 14)

See also related story Page 13



**SRINAGAR, June 22, (UPI):** Two Muslim rebels arrested by paramilitary police staged a daring escape from their captors today as they were being driven to jail, using karate to disarm their guards and then fleeing with an apparent civilian informer, witnesses said.

The incident came amid continuing violence in the Kashmir valley of north-

ern India, where Muslim rebels are waging a struggle to gain independence for Jammu and Kashmir state. At least four people were killed in violence today.

One of the people, a government employee, was gunned down at his home in the heart of the city, apparently by Muslim rebels, police sources said.

He was shot three times in the head and

chest, the sources said.

Muslim rebels say they want an independent state because Kashmiris have been systematically denied equal access to government jobs, higher education and economic development grants by the central government in New Delhi.

Two militants belonging to the

Kashmir Students Liberation Front staged a daring escape today shortly after they were arrested by the paramilitary Central Reserve Police force on the northern outskirts of the city, witnesses said.

Police were taking the two away from the site of the arrest in a jeep when other rebels opened fire with automatic rifles. The police jeep crashed and one of the

arrested rebels, whose nickname is Bita Karate, used martial arts to disarm their guards, the witnesses said.

Bita Karate and his companion, Ghulam Hassan, fled the scene with a civilian, who apparently had tipped the authorities to their whereabouts, they said.

Following the incident about 200

people gathered in the streets chanting "freedom" and "long live our struggle". The group held a traditional celebration of joy in the streets, cooking "teler" - a mutton and rice mixture seasoned with turmeric -- and distributing it to passersby.

A curfew continued on the old city of Srinagar today for the fourth consecutive day.

## Earthquake

(Continued from Page 1)



Rescue workers try to dig people out from the wreckage of the earthquake-damaged area of Zanjan. (Reuter wirephoto)

### Side effects

**Killer earthquake:** Iranian news media reacted with little emotion on Thursday to a killer earthquake.

The country has endured several massive tragedies in recent years. An estimated one million Iranians were killed or wounded in the eight-year war with Iraq that ended in 1988. And the Islamic revolution that in 1979 toppled the Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi cost hundreds of thousands of lives.

Moreover, devastating quakes are not new to the country. About 25,000 people died in eastern Iran in a 1978 earthquake. Roughly the same number died in a December 1988 quake in nearby Soviet Armenia. (AP)

**Tottering agriculture:** The earthquake which has killed tens of thousands of Iranians has also ravaged a major farming area and could present Tehran with a huge bill for food imports.

Iran is already spending about three billion dollars a year on food imports, more than 20 per cent of its hard currency earnings, according to a Western expert in Tehran.

Economists were unwilling to guess at the damage to Iranian agriculture in the confusion following on Thursday's earthquake but said they feared it would be serious.

The two worst-hit provinces of Gilan, on the Caspian sea coast, and Zanjan to the south, are important

fruit, rice, and wheat-growing areas.

Helicopter pilots over Gilan reported total devastation. With thousands of labourers among the casualties, irrigation systems damaged and produce spoilt in some districts, the omens for the Iranian economy looked bad.

Damage to paddy fields would be especially serious, economists said, because much of last year's rice crop was destroyed by another natural disaster, floods.

Economists said Tehran would probably have to import emergency supplies of food. (Reuter)

**Most fertile, prosperous:** The region of northwest Iran devastated by an earthquake on Thursday contains some of the country's most fertile land, prosperous villages and scenic mountains.

Official media said the quake killed more than 1,900 people in Gilan and Zanjan provinces, where an estimated four million people live in a combined area of 50,000 square km (20,000 square miles).

Gilan, hugging the Caspian coast from the border with Soviet Azerbaijan to the beach resorts north of Tehran, is the province with the most rainfall, primarily arid Iran.

Rice paddies dot the narrow plain from the sea to the Alborz mountains, where scenic villages are tucked away in Iran's thickest forests.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said in a message to Rafsanjani: "I convey ... my sincerest condolences and declare that we are ready to provide any assistance you may require."

King Hussein of Jordan sent a letter expressing "pain and sorrow for the tragic results of

the earthquake." Other Arab countries, including neighbouring Gulf nations, sent condolences.

In Washington, the White House also sent a message of condolences and expressed willingness to provide human-

itarian assistance, even though the United States does not have diplomatic relations with Iran.

Families, including women in head-to-toe black chadors, flooded donation centres in Tehran and handed over fistfuls of cash to rescue committees.

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### NEWS IN BRIEF



**Mansion blaze:** Fire Friday destroyed the eastern wing of a £12 million pounds mansion owned by the former UAE ambassador to London, Mohamed Moshad Al Tariq.

100 firemen were battling to control the blaze at the 18th century house in Buckinghamshire, near London four hours after it broke out.

In January armed robbers broke into the mansion and stole treasures worth five million pounds. The exact damage to the house and its contents could not be calculated immediately.

Fire investigation officers were standing by to inspect the scene, but police said there was nothing initially to suggest arson. The fire brigade said there was extensive damage, but no-one was injured. (Kuna)

**Australians arrested:** Two Australians have been arrested in connection with the stabbing death of a young British tourist outside a bar in Rhodes, a popular resort in Greece, police said Friday.

A police spokesman identified the two suspects as Andrea Vaccaro, 21, a construction worker of Italian origin, and Michael Tsigolis, 19, an electrician of Greek origin, both of Sydney.

They were arrested in connection with the death of William-Paul Petrie, 25, of Manchester, who was stabbed in the chest early Thursday and died on the way to the hospital. His companion, Sharon-Ann Dunn, 26, also from Manchester, was slightly injured when stabbed in the left wrist. (AP)

**Ukrainian kindergarten attacked:** A man armed with a hatchet broke into a Ukrainian kindergarten and began swinging wildly at the children, injuring 10 of them, the Soviet news agency Interfax said on Thursday.

An employee at the kindergarten in the city of Kharkov confirmed the attack had taken place on Wednesday and said six children were in hospital. Four had undergone operations but none was in danger, she said by telephone. (Reuter)

**Mission to Mars:** President George Bush lashed out Wednesday at Congressional critics of sending Americans to Mars, likening them to the "naysayers" of Christopher Columbus.

Touring NASA's Marshall Space Flight Centre, he criticised the House of Representatives' appropriations subcommittee for voting last week "to pull the plug on this historic undertaking" by axing \$300 million dollars Bush had requested for the project.

Bush wants to return Americans to the moon and to land a manned space flight on Mars within 30 years.

The President said American schoolchildren reading about Columbus' doubters "shook their heads in disbelief that these naysayers could have been so shortsighted." (AP)

**Lion-headed monkey found:** A previously unknown monkey species with a lion's head and a striking gold-and-black coat has been found in one of Southeast Asia's most populous regions, researchers said Wednesday.

"It's quite remarkable, because it's almost like finding something in the suburbs of Los Angeles," said Russell Mittermeier, president of Conservation International in Washington.

The black-faced lion tamarin, as the new monkey is called, is a golden squirrel-size monkey with black face, forearms and tail.

The discovery "is biologically important and an important conservation challenge as well," said Benjamin Beck, associate director of the National Zoo in Washington. Further studies of the animal's habitat and their relation to other lion tamarins should be conducted soon, he said. (AP)

**Albanians block autonomy move:** Ethnic Albanians from Yugoslavia's troubled Kosovo province have blocked constitutional changes aimed at reducing their autonomy.

In a stormy session on Thursday, Albanians in the Kosovar assembly refused to debate proposals to reduce the region's autonomy in favour of the Republic of Serbia, of which it is part.

Instead, they proposed a new Kosovar constitution which would give the region full autonomy from Serbia, news media reported on Friday.

Kosovo, inhabited by 1.7 million ethnic Albanians and 200,000 serbs, has for decades been torn by friction between the two groups, divided by language, tradition and religion. (Reuter)

**Socialist label dropped:** The Presidency of Croatia, Yugoslavia's second largest republic, has endorsed a proposal to remove communist insignia from the state's name and emblems, the Zagreb daily Vjesnik reported Thursday.

The proposal, expected to be adopted by the republic's parliament, would drop the label "socialist" from the name, leaving it simply the Republic of Croatia.

Slovenia is the only other of Yugoslavia's six republics to have changed its name and dropped socialist insignia.

Both Slovenia and Croatia have already had multi-party elections in which non-communists won a majority. Franjo Tudjman, whose conservative Croatian Democratic Union won a sweeping victory, became head of Croatia's collective presidency. (AP)

**Soviets pull out nuclear arms:** The Soviet Union is withdrawing some nuclear weapons from the Baltic Republic, Transcaucasia and Eastern Europe because of concern over internal unrest and the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, Nato sources said on Friday.

Security has been sharply increased at all Soviet bases with nuclear weapons, they added, citing US and West German intelligence reports.

"They are worried that these weapons might fall into the wrong hands and they want to be very sure that it doesn't happen," said one source, who asked not to be identified.

Moscow had moved the weapons, thought to be short-range missiles and some nuclear artillery shells, back to the Russian republic — close to central control. (Reuter)

**Self-immolation:** An unemployed man with a history of mental disorder set himself on fire Thursday after reading a statement to protesters alleging fraud in last week's elections in Bulgaria. The BTA news agency said.

The 32-year-old man, whose name was not released, was rushed to a hospital after the attempted self-immolation in Stara Zagora, some 250 kilometres (156 miles) east of Sofia, the official news agency said. His condition was not disclosed.

State radio earlier identified the man as a student.

But BTA said he had three criminal convictions, including one for rape and was under psychiatric supervision because he had previously tried three times to commit suicide. (AP)

### Black faces hunger

The tallest man in Bangladesh, a 2.5-metre (eight-foot-three-inch) giant who finds food too distasteful to eat, pressed off Thursday to beg for aid to stop his growth and repair his health.

"I am hungry but cannot eat food out of disease. This has robbed me of all bodily strength," said the 28-year-old Parimal Chandra Barman as he struggled to his feet to speak to reporters in his home on the outskirts of Dhaka.

"I don't want to die or become taller. Please, help me," said Barman, the youngest of six children in a fishing family.

Barman is still growing, his father, Arjun Chandra, said. "We are scared for his life."

Barman was a normal boy until 1973 when he suddenly began to grow very fast, his father said.

"Now he is unable to walk or even stand up alone. His height is still increasing, though very slowly," Chandra said, adding that he is too poor to take his son to specialists doctors or to buy medicine.



### Black fever

A fever that turns its victims black has killed about 120 people and stricken another 15,000 in northern Bangladesh over the past four months, officials and news reports say.

Kalaazar, or black fever, is carried by sand flies which inhabit the river-crossed plains of northern Bangladesh.

Health Ministry officials said Friday they have reports of at least 60 deaths from the disease in the northern districts of Rangpur and Kurigram. United News of Bangladesh reported on June 11 that black fever has killed 60 people and affected 15,000 others in Bogra district, 160 kilometres (100 miles) north of Dhaka.

Dr Mahbubur Rahman, a radiologist at Dhaka Medical College, said the disease, caused by a virus borne by the flies, first causes a mild temperature and stomach pain. Then, if untreated, it attacks the liver, turning the victim black.

"Many patients recover, but poor and malnourished people finally die," he said.

### \$4.5m demanded

#### Zardari seeks damages

KARACHI, Pakistan, June 22, (Reuter): Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, has demanded an apology and millions of dollars in damages from 29 Pakistani politicians and editors for accusing him of corruption, his lawyers said.

Demands for 100 million rupees (\$4.5 million) in damages had been sent to 19 opposition politicians and 10 newspaper and magazine editors, lawyer Abdul Mejid Pirzada said.

He said they would be sued if they did not comply with the demand within a week.

Speakers at an opposition convention last month accused Bhutto's government of rampant corruption and called for its resignation. Charges were levelled against government officials and against Zardari and his father Hakim Ali, who heads a parliamentary public accounts committee.

### Soviet oil field fire

A huge fire started by lightning and fed by driving winds in raging through a complex of oil storage tanks in the Soviet Union's key Tyumen oil field in western Siberia, Tass news agency said on Thursday.

Tass said 160 firemen had been airlifted to the Karkateyev oil station, 20 km (12 miles) from Nefteyugansk, and a train with tonnes of foaming agent was heading for the area.

The fire started after a lightning bolt set a storage tank with 5,000 tonnes of oil alight. Three more tanks quickly exploded and the fire spread. (Reuter)

AMESBURY, England: Hundreds of police, using tracker dogs and search helicopters, ringed Britain's Stonehenge Monument at dawn on Thursday to stop hippies celebrating the longest day at the prehistoric site.

Police said few hippies turned up for a mid-summer solstice pilgrimage to Stonehenge marked in past years by violence and mass arrests when revellers tried to break through police lines to reach the prehistoric circle of stones.

Police chief Alan Elliot told a dawn news conference that around 20 people had been arrested for drugs offences or for trying to enter a four-mile (six km) "exclusion zone" around the huge stones in southwest England.

"Our aim was to prevent violence and the strategy we have adopted has been very successful," he said. (Reuters)

FOWEY, England: British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher unexpectedly raced to the aid of a sinking boat called *Sheepdog* on Wednesday during an inspection of life rescue services.

"We can't let her go down," Thatcher puffed through the waves in a 4-foot (1.2-metre) lifeboat. It had received an emergency call as she was about to disembark after watching an air-sea rescue demonstration.

"There was a yacht in trouble, with a loose keel, so we went out to see if it was all right," she told reporters.

The rescue vessel took nine minutes to reach the yacht, which was taking on water, and deliver a bilge pump.

Thatcher described the experience as "absolutely marvellous." (Reuters)

### 6 months Living with mom's corpse

CHEEKETOWAGA, New York, June 22. (AP) He lived with his mother's corpse for more than six months, but the son of an elderly woman refused to believe she was dead, police said.

The body of Florence V. Kowalewski, 77, was found seated in a chair Wednesday in the house where she had lived with her 47-year-old son, police Lt. Thomas Rowan said.

"He was at home with his mother and denied she was dead when police told him," Rowan said. "She had been dead for more than six months and under a year."

LUXEMBOURG: Playboys will soon have the same right as ordinary working people to live where they want in the European Economic Community.

Gamblers employed citizens of the 12-nation bloc already have the right to live and work anywhere they fancy within that community.

Under the Payday directive agreed by EEC ministers on Wednesday, people who want to study, retire or live a life of luxury abroad will get the same right from the end of June 1992 provided they can prove they have the money to support themselves.

LONDON: The popular notion that dogs are "man's best friend" has been challenged by a new survey, showing that one third of British children have been attacked by the animals.

The survey of over 7,500 children showed that 10 per cent of those bitten by dogs had been scared by the attack, but only one in ten of the children said they had reported the incident to the police.

In 1988, there were 7.3 million dogs kept as household pets in the UK, and fears about the safety of these animals were heightened last year when an 11-year-old girl was savaged to death while walking a friend's family pet. (Kuma)

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida: A circus animal handler was crushed Wednesday by a 6,500-pound (3.25 ton) circus elephant apparently spooked by a passing automobile, authorities said.

The handler, identified by thunderbird swap shop officials as David Dickerson, 27, was taken by helicopter to Broward General Hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival. Dickerson died of a "severe crush injury to the chest," hospital spokesman Craig Blies said.

Dickerson, who had been a handler for the Hausefield Family Circus of Sarasota, Florida, for four years, was moving three rare female Asian elephants from a train to a performance arena at a flea market grounds the Thunderbird Swap Site, when the accident occurred, said George Crisler, spokesman for the Broward County sheriff's office.

"An auto moving through the swap shop grounds apparently either squealed the brakes or hit the horn, startling the elephants," Crofts said. "They turned abruptly in something of a panic, and the handler was kicked or possibly sat upon by one of the elephants." (UPI)

ATHENS: A donkey killed its master in a Kurdish village in northwestern Iran when it grabbed him by the throat and held on until he died, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (Iran) said Wednesday. Farm workers then clubbed the animal to death.

In a dispatch from Mahabad, some 325 miles (560 km) northwest of Tehran, Iran said the incident occurred "when Besir Khosrav, 45, working on his farm, tried to separate his donkey from its mate in order to load some burden upon it."

The dispatch, monitored in Athens, said: "The distressed beast savagely went for the throat of its master and held on to it until the farmer died." The incident occurred in Owi-Teppeh, a village in the Kurdish area near Mahabad. (UPI)

NEMI, Italy, June 22. (Reuters) Czechoslovakia's players got what their trainer called "conjugal therapy" with their wives on Tuesday and Wednesday as a reward for getting through the first round of the World Cup.

The innovation, warmly welcomed by the players, was another product of the end of communism in Czechoslovakia. It was the first time such a reunion had been held during the team's training camp for international competition.

The players were reunited with their wives immediately after Czechoslovakia were beaten 2-0 by Italy in Rome's Olympic stadium on Tuesday night and stayed with them in their training camp outside the city until Wednesday afternoon.

Trainer Jozef Venglos defended his move against hostile questioning by Czechoslovak journalists at the training camp at Nemí, in the Albus Hills near Rome.

"This is an important moment of relaxation for us. The boys got a chance to rest and unload the tension of the last few days," he said.

HONG KONG: Bednight will never be the same for two residents of Hong Kong's crowded Kowloon district.

Chen King, 69, was taking in her laundry on Wednesday when she lost her balance and tumbled out of a third floor window.

A window ledge on the second floor broke her fall but catapulted her through an open window into

the bathroom of the flat below, much to the surprise of an elderly woman taking her bath, the South China Morning Post newspaper reported.

Alerted by screams of terror, the 36-year-old daughter of the woman in the bath burst in to discover a shaken but unharmed Chen brushing herself off. (Reuters)

## Conjugal therapy

Players rewarded

## Kids take over UK pop 'Step by Step'

NEW YORK, June 22. (AP) New Kids on the Block took over the top of the pop singles record charts in the United States on Wednesday with their big hit "Step by Step."

The Top 10 pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets.

1. (6) Step by Step — New Kids on the Block
2. (4) It Must Have Been Love — Roxette (EMI)
3. (2) Poison — BBD (MCA)
4. (5) You Can't Touch This — MC Hammer (Columbia)
5. (1) Hold On — Wilson Phillips (SDK)
6. (9) Ready or Not — After Seven (Virgin)
7. (3) Vogue — Madonna (Sire/Warner Bros.)
8. (11) Do You Remember — Phil Collins (Atlantic)
9. (12) Hold On — En Vogue (Atlantic)
10. (7) All I Wanna Do — Heart (Capitol)

The Top 10 country-and-western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets.

1. (2) Walk On — Reba McEntire (MCA)
2. (3) He Walked on Water — Randy Travis (Warner Bros.)
3. (6) The Dance — Garth Brooks (Capitol)
4. (8) On Down the Line — Patti Loveless (MCA)
5. (5) She Came from Fort Worth — Kathy Mattea (Mercury)
6. (7) Nancy's Dream — Restless Heart (RCA)
7. (10) Island — Eddie Raven (Capitol)
8. (9) Hummingbird — Ricky Skaggs (Epic)
9. (11) Nobody's Talking — Exile (Arista)
10. (12) Good Friends, Good Whiskey, Good Loving — Hank Williams Jr. (Warner Bros.)

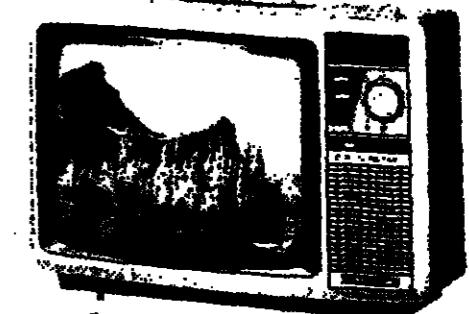
This week's Top 10 singles, as listed by our Price Music Ltd. with last week's places in parentheses.

1. (1) World in Motion — England-New Order (Factory-MCA)
2. (5) Sacrifice-Healing Hands — Elton John (Rocket-Phonogram)
3. (16) Nessun Dorma — Luciano Pavarotti (Decca-Polygram)
4. (7) It Must Have Been Love — Roxette (EMI)
5. (2) Hear the Drummer (Get Wicked) — Chad Jackson (Big Wave)
6. (6) The Only One I Know — Diana Ross (Spectrum Two)
7. (3) Step by Step — New Kids on the Block (CBS)
8. (4) Killer — Adamski (MCA)
9. (18) Ooops Up — Snap (Arista-BMG)
10. (9) Doin' the Do — Betty Boo (Rhythm King).

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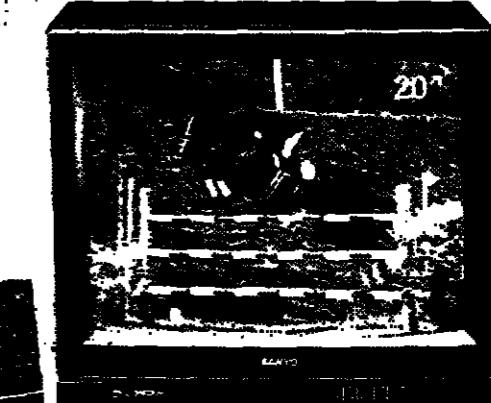


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OUR SHOWROOMS ARE OPEN ON FRIDAYS

## \$6 million in Noriega assets to be freed

MIAAMI, June 22. (AP): Federal prosecutors agreed Wednesday to release up to \$6 million from Manuel Noriega's European bank accounts, saying they wanted to move quickly with the drug trafficking case against the former Panamanian leader.

Meanwhile, Panama's new government told the court it will file a \$5.3 billion lawsuit against Noriega, accusing him of racketeering, including murder, theft and fraud against the Panamanian people.

Noriega, who surrendered to US troops Jan. 4, is being held in a jail outside Miami on an indictment accusing him of taking \$4.6 million in bribes from Colombia's Medellin drug cartel to turn Panama into a way station for cocaine trafficking. Trial is set to begin Jan. 28.

Assistant US attorney Michael Sullivan said the agreement to unfreeze \$4.5 million to \$6 million in assets solves a legal battle that began April 29, when defense attorneys threatened to withdraw from the case. They had said the government's seizure of \$20 million of Noriega's assets deprived them of fees and expenses.

Lead defense attorney Frank Rubin said his team of five attorneys was satisfied with the agreement. "We feel now will have the give to go forward and give Gen. Noriega the defense he deserves."

US attorney Dexter Lehtinen said the deal will allow prosecutors "to focus on the true issues in the criminal case."

Rubin vowed to fight a protracted legal battle to release and make public payments made by the CIA and other intelligence agencies to the former Panamanian leader. The defense has said the payments added up to \$11 million, but the government claimed the amount was much lower.

US district judge William Hoeveler, who had warned prosecutors the government would have to justify its seizures unless it released funds for Noriega's defense, said he approved the deal.

## 15-year-old held in Rio Robberies

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 22. (Reuter): A 15-year-old boy was arrested and charged with leading 10 bank robberies, police said.

"He...without doubt is the leader of one of the biggest (bank robbery) gangs in the city," deputy police chief Helio Viegas told reporters.

The boy, known as "Baladarcci," told police that he had been involved in five bank robberies. He also admitted to being a habitual drug user.

Baladarcci was arrested in the house he bought for his mother. Police also found a .38 calibre revolver and 40,000 cruzeiros (\$800) hidden among the plants.



Haoi

Chief Bill Traverse from the Jackhead Reserve in Manitoba waves an eagle feather as part of a native anti-Meech rally in which 5,000 people attended June 21. (Reuter wirephoto)

## On the brink of death Meech Lake agreement

MONTREAL, June 22. (AP): A constitutional agreement aimed at keeping French-speaking Quebec in the Canadian federation is on the brink of death, blocked two provinces as the deadline for passage approached.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney yesterday flew to St John's Newfoundland, one of the holdouts, in an effort to save the agreement, which must be ratified by all provinces by midnight tomorrow or expire. He warned that sinking the accord could prompt another referendum in Quebec — this time by the separatists.

Troubles loomed too in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where a legislator has managed to block debate for a week on the agreement.

Eight of the provinces favour the Meech Lake Accord, as it is called, and Mulroney is one of the most ardent supporters of the agreement.

In the interim, governments changed in three of the provinces — Manitoba, Newfoundland, and New Brunswick — and the premiers reneged on the signatures of their predecessors.

In early June, Mulroney called the premiers to Ottawa where they spent a week in intense private meetings. They agreed to pass the originated accord as it is. New Brunswick passed it last week.

Newfoundland Premier Clyde Wells put the agreement up for a vote in his legislature, where it is still being debated.

The biggest challenge has

come from Manitoba. Legislator Elijah Harper, who as a Cree is the only Indian in the provincial legislature, has said he will kill Meech Lake because it does not take native rights into consideration.

Many of the Indians and Inuit leaders of Canada believe their societies are as distinct as Quebec's, and they also want to be recognised in the constitution.

Manitoba law requires public hearings before a vote on constitutional amendments, and procedural delays introduced by Harper have pushed debate back so far that it may be impossible to pass the measure before the deadline.

For many Quebecois in Montreal, Canada's second-largest city, the arguments have worn thin and the endless debate over a document thought signed and sealed in 1987 has led to widespread cynicism and a rise in nationalist feelings.

A poll published yesterday in the French-language newspaper La Presse indicated that 57 per cent of Quebecois favour sovereignty, up slightly from 56 per cent in March.

But, unlike a decade ago when a referendum was held by the Separatist Parti Quebecois to determine the future of the province, passion is missing.

"I think people have accepted that it (Meech Lake) won't pass with a shrug," said Robert Gagnon, a computer systems specialist for a Montreal insurance company.

for Santos' act.

"In his shoes, I don't know what I would have done," Menem said on Tuesday. "As one who studied law and qualified as a lawyer... I do not believe it was right because thieves should have the right to a legitimate defence."

Petty crime, particularly thefts from automobiles, is so common in Buenos Aires that some insurers no longer cover car stereo equipment.

Of more concern to the city's 11 million inhabitants are the dozens of burglaries, armed robberies and muggings reported daily which the police and judicial system appear powerless to handle.

Santos' action has won support from many Argentines tired of what they see as a breakdown of law and order.

President Carlos Menem, while not condoning the killings, expressed understanding

## Car stereo killing sparks law, order debate

BUENOS AIRES, June 22. (Reuter): At mid-day on Saturday Horacio Santos, a chemical engineer with four young children, was pushed over the limit.

Seeing his car being robbed of its stereo for the 13th time, he shot dead two of the thieves and seriously wounded a third.

The killings — and Argentina's rising crime — have sparked a nation-wide debate over law and order that is vying with the World Cup for front-page news.

The case also has focused attention on law enforcement in Argentina, where some police have been implicated in crimes and go door-to-door in some areas to beg for contributions.

Explaining Santos' action, his lawyer, Eduardo Jerome, told a television talk show host: "He is no vigilante killer. Circumstances pushed him to actually totally out of character."

In just over a year Santos was hit by the stereo thefts, by his family being held at gunpoint while his home was ransacked, and by seeing an accountant at his firm shot by mugger, Jerome said.

Santos' action has won support from many Argentines tired of what they see as a breakdown of law and order.

President Carlos Menem, while not condoning the killings, expressed understanding

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## Politics irrelevant to hiring

### US Supreme Court rules against political patronage

WASHINGTON, June 22, (AP): The Supreme Court dealt a devastating blow to political patronage yesterday, ruling that government employers generally may not base hiring, transfer and promotion decisions on someone's party affiliation.

By a 5-4 vote, the justices said refusing to hire, transfer or promote people for politically partisan reasons in most cases violates their constitutionally protected freedoms of speech and association.

The court said partisanship may play a role in such employment decisions only when political affiliation is an appropriate requirement for carrying out a job, such as a high-level policy adviser.

"Unless these patronage practices are narrowly tailored to further vital government interests, we must conclude that they impermissibly encroach on First Amendment freedoms," Justice William J. Brennan wrote for the court.

But those decisions dealt only with firings.

Before yesterday the court never had said partisanship can play no role in hiring, transfers and promotions.

The court also struck down patronage powers of government employers in laying off and rehiring public employees.

A federal appeals court had upheld the Illinois patronage policy in hiring, transfers and promotions but banned such considerations in layoffs and rehirings.

employers from firing anyone — even some policy-making and confidential government workers — solely because of their political party unless party loyalty is a requirement for effective performance.

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## Lookout book details emerge

### List shows 353,324 entries

NEW YORK, June 22, (AP): The US government's list of foreigners barred from the country for political reasons may have many been longer than previously thought, according to newly released documents.

Details of the so-called "Lookout book," emerged for the first time in a lawsuit brought by a Colombian journalist who was rebuffed at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport four years ago.

The list was previously estimated by immigration lawyers to have some 40,000 names. But the list released Thursday, which does not include names, shows 353,324 entries from 146 countries, territories and other areas. More than two-thirds of the entries appear to come after 1980, a year before Ronald Reagan became president.

Because some names were entered more than once and entries rarely are removed, the exact number of individuals cannot be immediately determined, government officials said.

"Unfortunately I have a feeling there's no way to know how many people are on the list," said assistant US attorney Chad Vignola, who represented the government.

Vignola said that the estimate of more than 300,000 barred individuals, which was suggested by the lawyer representing barred Colombian journalists Patricia Lara, was "simply wrong."

Whatever the number, the disclosure is "the first time that concrete dimension has been given to the magnitude and scope of this lookout system," said Lara's lawyer, Arthur Helton.

A 1980 graduate of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, Lara came to New York in 1986 to receive journalism's Maria Moors Cabot Prize, awarded for advancing inter-American understanding and freedom of information.

Authorities alleged she was linked to a Colombian terrorist group, but Lara denied the charge. She maintained she was barred for writing articles critical of US policy in Central America.

The lookout list was released under an order issued last September by US District Judge John Walker. The judge also stipulated that the names be withheld to protect those people mentioned.

Formally called the National Automated Immigration Lookout system, the list was turned over the Helton earlier this month.

In the past, the Lookout book has drawn attention when notable figures were excluded from the United States — even though their words were available to the US readers.

Nobel laureates Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Pablo Neruda, authors Graham Greene, Doris Lessing and Carlos Fuentes, French actor Yves Montand and former Rhodesian prime minister Ian Smith have been barred from the United States, according to a Senate Foreign Relations Committee report.

### Little Richard honoured

Rock originator Little Richard flashes a peace sign after being honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame June 21. The creator of the rock classics "Good Jolly Miss Molly" and "Lucille" became the 1,915th person to receive the honour. (Reuter wirephoto)

### Chile Army denies knowledge

## Missing victims

SANTIAGO, June 22, (AP): President Patricio Aylwin said yesterday the country's military chiefs deny knowing where any missing victims of anti-leftist repression may be buried.

Speaking at a press conference marking his 100th day in office, Aylwin also said he would allow the trial and punishment of any military officer, including ex-president Augusto Pinochet, on human rights abuse charges if the courts found legal grounds.

Since the country's return to democracy, authorities have found two mass graves believed used by the army after a 1973 coup. Twenty-three bodies were unearthed, but about 700 suspected leftists who disappeared during military rule remain missing.

Speaking at a press conference in the presidential palace, Aylwin said he and his defense minister asked top military authorities for any information on other hidden graves.

"The answer received is that there is willingness to co-operate on the matter, but that the high commands don't know where these places really are," he said.

Among the missing were more than 100 people summarily executed by special military-led tribunals after the coup, according to human rights organisations.

### Fujimori likely to sign military accords with US

LIMA, June 22, (AP): President-elect Alberto Fujimori yesterday indicated he will allow the United States to train Peruvian soldiers in anti-rebel and anti-drug warfare.

Fujimori, to take office July 28, said he largely approves of an agreement calling for Washington to give \$35 million in military aid to Peru this year. The accord includes funds for building a training base near Peru's drug-rich Upper Huallaga valley.

"In principle, I consider the agreement useful and opportune for the fight against

narcoterrorism," Fujimori said.

Fujimori, speaking to foreign reporters, also said he plans to renew Peru's contacts with the International Monetary Fund. He said there is a "consensus in the country" in favour of restoring the ties, broken off by outgoing President Alan Garcia.

The Upper Huallaga is the world's main source of coca leaf, the raw material for cocaine. At least a thousand Maoist Shining Path guerrillas are believed to operate in the valley, located on the jungle-covered eastern

slopes of the Andes 250 miles (400 kilometres) northeast of Lima.

The rebels provide protection for drug traffickers in exchange for money and arms.

The United States Drug Enforcement Administration and Peruvian police already jointly run an anti-drug airbase in the valley.

The new military agreement includes \$20 million to build a training camp and outfit Peruvian soldiers with arms and equipment.

The agreement was drawn up by Washington and Garcia's outgoing administration.



# 'Slave traders' rake in millions by 'smuggling' Chinese

BEIJING, June 22, (Reuter): Modern-day "slave traders" are making millions out of the misery of Chinese nationals by smuggling them out of China to a new life of prostitution, drugs and menial labour in the United States.

Tens of thousands of Chinese are now trying to escape the country. Diplomats say pressure to leave has gathered a momentum unprecedented since the communists took power in 1949.

"I'd do anything to get out—I'd walk for days to get across the border," one young Chinese confided to a reporter.

But in their desperation to flee an economic crisis and a crackdown on political dissent, many Chinese are falling into the hands of smugglers and end-

ing up little better than slaves, diplomats say.

The human tragedy was highlighted recently with the uncovering of a plot to smuggle thousands of Chinese people into the United States from Panama.

"You're talking about 7,000 of these people a year at up to \$40,000 a head—that's a business of about \$280 million a year," said one diplomat.

One Chinese woman is now awaiting trial in the United States, accused of raking in \$30 million in the last year alone from human trafficking. She was recently released on bail of \$25,000.

Foreigners—businessmen, journalists, and tourists as well as diplomats—are constantly asked for advice by Chinese residents on how to resettle

abroad.

Even if they manage to get past foreign immigration authorities, their dreams of freedom and riches are often mocked by the harsh realities of their new life.

"There's a mistaken belief that these people leaving have a chance at freedom," said one diplomat. "But so many of them are enslaved by their smugglers when they get to the United States. The smugglers make indentured servants out of them."

Many are forced to pay their debts to smugglers through prostitution and drug-running, or end up washing dishes for a pittance in a Chinese restaurant, another diplomat said.

Pressure to leave gathered steam last year when

China's economy slumped, especially in the south where unemployment is high, said a Western aid official.

Dozens of students and others were caught trying to flee through the southern province of Yunnan to Burma—some with forged documents—after Beijing's bloody military crackdown on dissident a year ago.

One senior Western diplomat said he did not expect a tidal wave of political refugees from China "unless there is a political cataclysm like an all-out civil war."

Nevertheless, each day in Beijing, Chinese residents form long queues outside embassies in the hope of securing a precious visa.

After last year, growing numbers began leaving without visas to set sail for what they saw as more golden shores.

The idea of millions pouring out of China frightens the country's most prosperous neighbour, Japan.

Since last year, nearly 2,700 have sailed from southern China to Japan posing as Vietnamese boat people in a bid to win political asylum.

Would-be immigrants promise to pay smugglers \$25,000 to \$40,000, while the average annual wage in China is below \$300. "The Chinese prey on each other, this is a tragedy," he said.

Too few resources and a shortage of manpower are hampering efforts to stem the tide of illegal

Chinese immigrants to their prime destination, the United States, a diplomat said.

The US government devotes only six officers worldwide to deal with the problem. Its system of paid informants—the key means of breaking smuggling rings—is poorly funded.

Informants in the United States are often members of Chinese underworld triad gangs who have taken an oath of secrecy. Buying them off is costly and dangerous.

"The administration is dealing with the Chinese problem the same way it deals with Mexicans, where you can buy informants for \$10," said the diplomat.

## Aya flies home, to marry June 29

TOKYO, June 22, (Reuter): The love story that captured the romantic imagination of a nation neared its climax yesterday when Prince Aya, 24-year-old younger son of Emperor Akihito, returned to Japan to take the hand of his commoner fiancee.

"I'm looking forward to my new life, but distance has made it difficult for me to really feel the excitement," the tall prince with the droopy moustache said just before completing his zoology studies at Britain's Oxford University.

Aya, second-in-line to the imperial throne behind unmarried elder brother Naruhito, 30, surprised the public last autumn by announcing his engagement to 23-year-old Kiko Kawashima. They are to marry on June 29.

Though he is seen here as a prince charming, his bride-to-be is certainly no Cinderella. "Kiko-San," as the popular press affectionately calls her, is the daughter of an economics professor and was Aya's fellow student at Gakushuin University in Tokyo.

The two have been separated since announcing their engagement. Aya returning to Oxford to continue his research into catfish, which he calls his life's work.

Kawashima began learning from courtiers the elaborate rituals that are to become a part of her life.

News of their love affair came as a breath of fresh air to Japan after months of political and sex scandals. The local press lapped it all up, splashing headlines with accounts of the couple's campus courtship and gushing over the engagements ring, shaped to depict two entwined catfish.

Aya is only the second male member of Japan's centuries-old imperial family to seek and win the hand of a commoner. Kawashima will be made a princess after they marry.

Aya follows in the footsteps of his father, Akihito, who, as crown prince in 1959, broke imperial precedent and married Michiko, the daughter of a wealthy flour miller.

The family of "Kiko-San," now a graduate student of psychology, do not even belong to the merchant class, and Japan greeted the news of the prince's engagement to her as another sign the mystery-shrouded imperial family is finally emerging from behind its "chrysanthemum curtain".

Local magazines say Michiko was the main force in convincing the emperor and Kawashima's parents to approve the match, after initial objections that are believed to have made Aya threaten to renounce his imperial status.

**Seoul envoy rejects Pyongyang call**

UNITED NATIONS, June 22, (AP): South Korea's new UN envoy rejected North Korea's call for the two Korean states to share a single UN seat.

Hyun Hong-Choo, South Korea's permanent observer to the United Nations, said the two Koreas should simultaneously be offered separate memberships in the United Nations.

North and South Korea held non-voting observer status at the body.

However, "we are prepared to enter the UN (alone) if North Korea is opposed to it," Hyun said in a speech Wednesday to the Asia Society, a non-partisan group dedicated to promoting better US-Asian ties.

**Japan reaffirms commitment 'not to become a military power'**

WASHINGTON, June 22, (AP): A special envoy from Tokyo used the 30th anniversary of the US-Japan security treaty to reaffirm Japan's commitment "not to become a military power."

The commitment makes it easier for Japan's neighbours to accept "larger political and economic roles for Japan," said the envoy, former foreign minister Shintaro Abe.

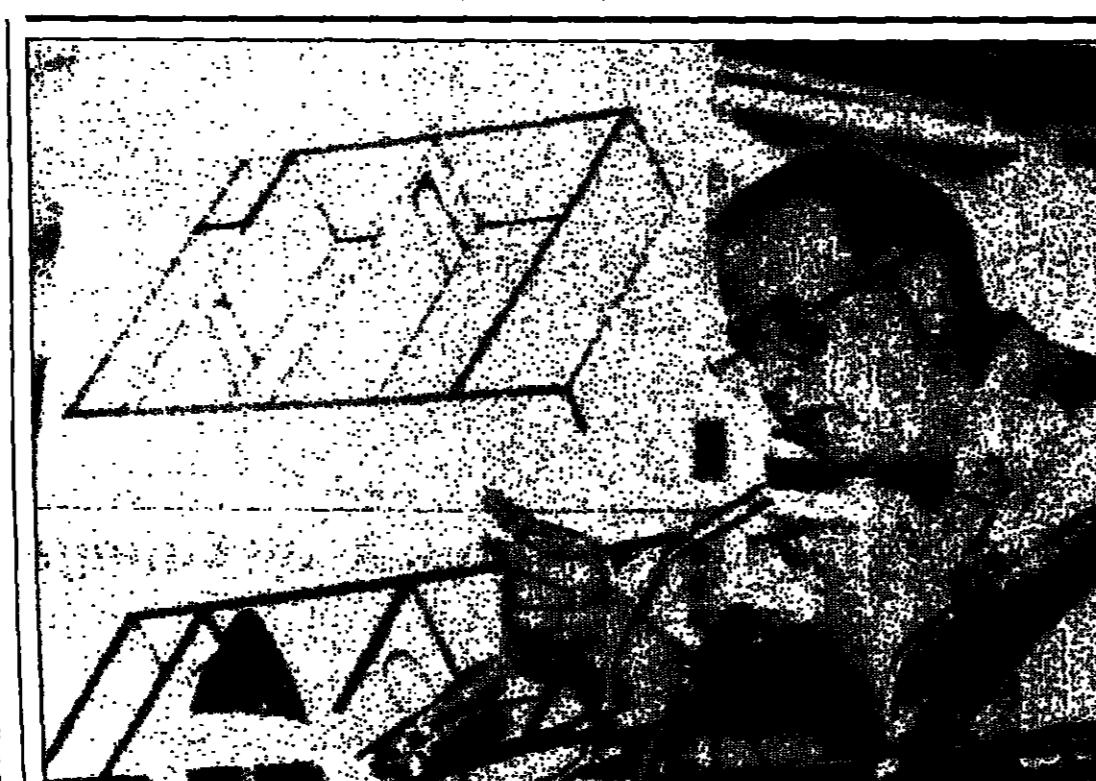
Abe addressed a State Department lunch co-hosted in his honour Wednesday by US Secretary of State James Baker and Defence Secretary Dick Cheney.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu sent Abe to Washington as a special ambassador to mark the anniversary of the 1960 military



Aya completes studies, back in Japan

Prince Aya (left) younger son of Emperor Akihito and Kiko Kawashima the prince's commoner fiancee speak at a news conference announcing their engagement at the Akasaka Palace September 12, 1989. The prince returned to Japan June 21 after completing his zoology studies at Britain's Oxford University. They are to marry on June 29. (Reuter filephoto)



Midway being probed

### Explosion cause not known

TOKYO, June 22, (AP): Investigators were probing a small storeroom and interviewing crewmen on the US aircraft carrier Midway today, trying to find out what caused an explosion that killed two crewmen and seriously injured nine.

Six seriously burned sailors from Wednesday's explosion were flown today to the Brooke Army Medical Centre burn unit in San Antonio, Texas, said Cmdr Mark Neuhart, US 7th Fleet public affairs officer.

Meanwhile, Japanese newspapers complained of unanswered questions about the explosion.

"Show nothing, say nothing," said a heading in the national newspaper Mainichi Shimbun. It said reporters were allowed to see only part of the hangar deck used for a news conference, and the conference ended in 20 minutes "while reporters still had many questions remaining."

The national newspaper Asahi Shimbun asked: "Was there really no harm to the environment? Not only has the mystery not been solved, it has gotten deeper."

Earlier, the Japanese government asked the US military to improve its safety practices.

Dozens of protesters outside the US naval base at Yokosuka, near Tokyo, contended the ship was carrying nuclear weapons in violation of a Japanese ban, making the situation more hazardous. Japan is the only nation ever to have suffered a nuclear attack.

The US Navy has sought to assure the public that the Midway was safe. But as a matter of policy, the United States refuses to comment on specific locations of nuclear weapons.

Neuhart said: "We feel we have been quite open and forthright in answering all questions to the best of our ability."

He said investigators still had "more questions than answers" in their probe of what caused two explosions Wednesday in a small storeroom for firefighting and other emergency equipment aboard the 67,000-ton ship.

The US Navy has sought to assure the public that the Midway was safe. But as a matter of policy, the United States refuses to comment on the location of its nuclear weapons.

"Don't let the Midway land here," and "Don't let in nuclear weapons," about 50 protesters chanted outside the Navy base gate about an hour before the 67,000-ton ship moored at Yokosuka, 45 kms (28 miles) southwest of Tokyo.

Eight of the demonstrators wore sashes identifying them as victims of the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

After the air evacuation of six injured crewmen, he said, three

seriously hurt sailors remained under intensive care at the naval hospital at Yokosuka, 28 miles (45 kms) southwest of Tokyo.

The safety of the ship was never in jeopardy," Rear Adm Lyle Bull, commander of the battle force 7th fleet, told about 100 reporters escorted aboard a ship a day after the blasts.

Demonstrators charged that the ship was carrying nuclear weapons into its home port at Yokosuka despite a Japanese ban against them. The United States refuses to comment on the location of its nuclear weapons.

The government of Japan, the only country to experience a nuclear attack, asked the US military to improve its safety practices and Yokosuka city officials demanded assurances of the 45-year-old carrier's safety before its return.

Japanese investigators still had "more questions than answers" in their probe of what caused two explosions Wednesday in a small storeroom for firefighting and other emergency equipment aboard the 67,000-ton ship.

The US Navy has sought to assure the public that the Midway was safe. But as a matter of policy, the United States refuses to comment on the location of its nuclear weapons.

"Don't let the Midway land here," and "Don't let in nuclear weapons," about 50 protesters chanted outside the Navy base gate about an hour before the 67,000-ton ship moored at Yokosuka, 45 kms (28 miles) southwest of Tokyo.

Eight of the demonstrators wore sashes identifying them as victims of the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

After the air evacuation of six injured crewmen, he said, three

# 'Imelda will be tried by Philippine court'

### US judge expresses reservations

MANILA, June 22, (AP): President Corazon Aquino said today that former first lady Imelda Marcos eventually will be tried by Philippine courts but gave no indication of when.

On Wednesday, US district judge John Keenan, who has presided over Imelda's three-month racketeering trial in New York, expressed reservations about whether a US court should hear the case against her.

Asked whether the Philippines planned to prosecute Imelda, Aquino said in a statement: "At the proper time, she will be tried in the Philippines for crimes committed in the Philippines against Philippine laws."

Aquino refused to allow Marcos to be buried in the Philippines and has banned his immediate family from returning, citing national security.

The Philippine judicial system is slow and cumbersome, especially in politically sensitive cases. The trial of 40 defendants charged in the 1983 assassination of Aquino's husband, Benigno, began in April 1987 and is still continuing.

A federal judge on Thursday declined to dismiss racketeering charges against former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos despite his reservations about the prosecution.

US district judge John F. Keenan, who has presided over the three-month trial, said he was bound by law to allow a jury to decide the case against Imelda Marcos and her co-defendant, Saudi financier Adnan Khashoggi.

"Although the court has expressed questions concerning the prosecution, it is not under the American system of jurisprudence to make policy decisions. That's for the executive branch of our government," Keenan said.

On Wednesday, during arguments on the dismissal motions, Keenan suggested that the trial may belong in the Philippines.

Keenan let stand all the charges, saying the law that governs the dismissal motions required him to review the evidence "in the light most favourable to the prosecution."

Defence motions to dismiss are customary in criminal cases and rarely are granted.

Keenan's ruling clears the way for closing arguments on Monday. The jury could begin deliberations as early as next Thursday.

After the prosecution rested its case on Tuesday, attorneys for both defendants said they would call no witnesses.

Imelda, 60, is charged with racketeering, conspiracy, mail fraud and obstruction of justice. If convicted, she would face a maximum of 50 years in prison and a \$1 million fine.

■ Manila and eastern Luzon were hit by tropical Ophelia's gusty winds and heavy rains Thursday. The storm headed toward the main Philipines with winds up to 110 kms (68 miles) per hour.

Forecasters said the storm centre was expected to strike the northern coast of Luzon late Thursday. Earlier, heavy rains churned up by the storm struck Manila and southeastern Luzon, triggering landslides and disrupting transport.

At noon (0300 GMT), Ophelia was centred about 200 kms (120 miles) northeast of Cagayan, a small island about 350 kms (220 miles) southeast of Manila.

The storm was moving northwest toward Luzon's Aurora province at 26 kms (16 miles) per hour, officials said.

### Cambodia reports coup plot checked

BANGKOK, June 22, (AP): Communist Cambodia said it had foiled a coup plot, in an announcement that follows the arrest of key figures accused of trying to form a rival political party.

Cambodian government radio on Wednesday said the plotters had conspired to launch their bid between June and August, with the support of unspecified "foreign espionage circles."

A text of the broadcast was seen yesterday in Bangkok.

The announcement on official Phnom Penh radio on Wednesday mentioned no names.

But on May 25 a government minister, three senior officials and two army officers were arrested for trying to form a new political party, according to Cambodian sources and foreign diplomats.

The attempt was reported as guerrilla forces led by the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge pressed closer to Phnom Penh with a new rainy season offensive, briefly seizing the central provincial capital of Kompong Thom and shelling the western city of Battambang at the weekend.

The detained men were believed to be Transport and Communications Minister Ueng Phan, Kan Man, deputy director of the Foreign Ministry's US and European Bureau, Thun Saray, director of the Institute of Sociology, Nou Saing Kha, chief of planning in Ueng Phan's ministry, and two army officers, Lieutenant Colonel Kay Mathury of the Construction brigade and Colonel On Sum of the Defence Ministry research department.

The sources had said they wanted to set up the Democratic Freedom Party. A guerrilla source said at the time of the arrests the detained men believed the present government was too much under the control of the Vietnamese. He did not say his faction was directly linked to any plot.

The president said that because they could not succeed militarily, the enemies took advantage of the state's political and economic liberalisation policy "to set up a traitorous force within our inner ranks with the intention of overthrowing the state of Cambodia through attacks from the rear in addition to military attacks from the front."

These foreign espionage circles enlisted the help of some inactive and idle persons and hooligans to form a secret reactionary organisation for subversive activities," it said.

"This would take the form of a reactionary coup d'etat if our party and state had failed to prevent it," the broadcast said.

The Election Commission has taken nearly a month to compile an official list of results and is still lacking figures in four constituencies. Of the 481 seats announced, the opposition National League for Democracy has won 397 despite the widespread arrest and intimidation of its members.

The Election Commission on Thursday said the last few results had been delayed by poor communications.

The Khmer Rouge is the most powerful of three guerrilla armies fighting the Phnom Penh government. Vietnam invaded Cambodia in late 1978, ousted the Khmer Rouge from power, then installed the Phnom Penh government.

Leaders of the League, land-

slide winners in last month's elections, had said they

## INTERNATIONAL

**Manila refuses refugees asylum**

MANILA, June 22, (UPI): The Philippines refused asylum today to 88 Vietnamese rescued by Canadian vessels, saying it wanted an assurance the boat people would be resettled in Canada in three years, officials said.

Officials said six ailing Vietnamese were airlifted to Manila today and hospitalised.

Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus sent a letter to the Canadian embassy detailing the Philippine position on the eve of the arrival in Manila of the Canadian supply ship Provider and the destroyer Kootenay with the refugees aboard.

"We would like assurances that they would be transferred from the Philippines by Dec 31, 1992, whether or not they are determined to be refugees," Manglapus told Canadian Ambassador Andre Simard in the letter released to reporters.

The Provider and the Kootenay rescued 90 Vietnamese June 11 en route to Manila, where the ships were expected to arrive tomorrow. Two of the refugees died during the journey, the Philippine military said.

A Philippine official who spoke on the condition of anonymity said Canada was unable to give the guarantee Manila was demanding, resettlement of the Vietnamese in Canada, because only those who qualified as political refugees would be resettled.

Under a comprehensive plan of action formulated by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, boat people found to have left Vietnam for economic reasons would be returned.

A secretary for Simard said the Canadian ambassador was discussing the problem with the Philippine government and declined immediate comment.

Last week, the Philippines for three weeks refused temporary asylum to 255 Vietnamese picked up by US vessels until it was given assurance the United States would resettle the refugees within three years.

First asylum countries in Asia have complained against the "open-ended" stay of refugees, leaving their presence a burden.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said yesterday there was no "moral difference" between refugees who flee their homelands for political reasons and those trying to escape poverty.

But Thorvald Stoltzenberg said the flood of economic refugees, particularly from Indo-China, could destroy international programmes to offer havens for the victims of political oppression.

Stoltzenberg, who arrived Wednesday for a two-day visit, told reporters there is a "tendency to look at economic refugees as less acceptable than political refugees."

The United States faces a painful decision between easing its opposition to forced repatriation of Vietnamese "boat people" or seeing them pushed back to sea and potential death, Congress was told yesterday.

Countries providing temporary "first asylum" refugee under a year-old Geneva agreement have given the United States until July 1 to arrange new alternatives for people screened out as ineligible for resettlement. Those deemed to be fleeing poverty rather than political persecution are not granted haven.

Without waiting for the deadline, Malaysia has forced an estimated 7,700 boat people back to sea, causing five reported deaths, Princeton N. Lyman, refugee programmes director, told the House of Representatives Asia-Pacific subcommittee.

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Mowaljari is pictured June 21 nursing a box of Aboriginal bones returned from Bradford University. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Century-old bones

### Aborigines to tackle mystery

SYDNEY, June 22, (Reuters): The Australian aboriginal community is attempting to solve a mystery at which even the master sleuth Sherlock Holmes might have balked.

Aborigines throughout Australia are being asked to help identify a collection of bones belonging to an aboriginal man whose body was sent to England for scientific experiments more than a century ago.

Until he is identified and buried in his tribal land, Aborigines believe his spirit will not rest.

Unlike modern police investigations, the aborigines' search will not rely on sophisticated forensic science. Instead it will depend on their dream-time legends and history, passed by word-of-mouth from generation to generation.

Yesterday, David Mowaljari, an elder of the Ngarrinya people of western Australia, took possession of the bones. For the present, the mystery aborigine would be called Jirwari, somebody whose spirit had not come to rest in his territory of origin, he said.

"There is bound to be someone alive now, or who is not long dead, who was named after a man who disappeared or who was not buried in his country," said Mowaljari.

"Someone could have been named after a story about the man who disappeared," he said. "It won't be lost; it will still be there, the knowledge about who this fellow is."

"It is only 100 years we're talking about; that is nothing to blackfellows."

Once his identity is revealed, Mowaljari said, a special airtui, a day-long bush burial ceremony, would be performed. During the ceremony wild animals would be killed and cooked and their flesh would become the flesh of the dead man, he said.

Mowaljari said information about the aborigine obtained from Bradford University in England, where the body was taken for experiments at the turn of the century, suggested he was from the Broome area on the northern coastline of western Australia.

## Taiwan releases Hou Aussies firm against China

### Aussies firm against China

TAIPEI, June 22, (Agencies): Taiwan authorities released dissident pop star Hou Dejian at midnight on Thursday but said he could still be prosecuted.

Officials said today that prosecutors were studying whether Hou, who defected to China seven years ago but was sent back home by Beijing, should face trial for illegal entry or violating national security.

He said he did not want to be labelled as a professional dissident. "I am a singer who has different political ideas, that's all."

Hou, who defected to China in 1983, joined last year's pro-democracy movement in Beijing.

He returned to Taiwan on Wednesday night, telling an interviewer Beijing gave him a choice of going to prison or returning to Taiwan.

He returned himself in for questioning to Taiwan's bureau of investigations, which last night passed the case to prosecutors.

Australian Foreign Minister Senator Gareth Evans said yesterday in Canberra, Australia would continue diplomatic sanctions to punish Beijing, but defended Australian and US decisions to continue trade with China.

"I don't think it's time for business as usual as far as government contacts are concerned," Evans said in a radio interview on the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"It is important we continue to express our unhappiness with the course of the events leading up to the Tiananmen incident last June and what's happened subsequently," he said.

The IRA, fighting British rule in Northern Ireland, said it was responsible for the murder of the tourists but described it as tragic mistake.

Hughes, 26, was charged on Thursday with murder and could face a life sentence, which in the Netherlands effectively means 15 to 20 years imprisonment.

He was arrested on Tuesday, ending a three-day international manhunt which started on Saturday after Belgian police, alerted by a family who became suspicious of strangers in woods near their home, arrested a man and woman near the town of Turnhout.

The man escaped, still wearing handcuffs, and a second man fled before police arrived.

## Dutch found vital evidence

### IRA attacks



Paul Hughes

Hughes on a getaway car used by guerrillas who killed two Australian tourists they mistook for off-duty British soldiers in the southern town of Roermond last month.

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## Colombian jailed

### Smuggling drugs into Netherlands

AMSTERDAM, June 22, (Reuters): The Colombian leader of a drug gang caught smuggling nearly three tonnes of cocaine into the Netherlands was jailed for 15 years by a Dutch court yesterday.

The man, identified only as 39-year-old R.G., was the most important member of a group arrested by police in February while moving the record haul from a warehouse in the port of IJmuiden, Haarlem court spokeswoman Joekelen van de Pal said.

Three of his Colombian accomplices received jail terms of between seven and nine years, she added.

In keeping with Dutch practice, all those sentenced were only identified by their initials.

Four other members of the same gang — three Dutch and one Colombian — were sentenced to prison terms of between seven and 13 years by the same court on Wednesday.

Van de Pal said the gang boss ran a company which shipped cocaine from South America to Europe hidden in consignments of fruit and juice over a period of two years.

He served a previous jail sentence for drugs smuggling in Spain between 1979 and 1983, she added.

## Taylor's tattered army swells

TAPETA, Liberia, June 22, (Reuters): They call themselves Black Cobra, Border Patrol or Idi Amin but address each other as Sir, clicking their heels respectfully.

They wear ju-ju charms round their necks, paint their faces with white clay and claim bullets bounce off their bare chests, but supplement their bows and arrows with an ill-assorted range of automatic weapons to force their way to power.

Liberian rebels waging a jungle war are now within striking distance of the capital Monrovia where President Samuel Doe has barricaded himself with demoralised troops, waiting for the final and probably bloody push.

Last-ditch peace talks are due to resume on Monday in neighbouring Sierra Leone but there seems little chance of success. The rebels say they will take Monrovia within hours if the negotiations brokered by religious leaders collapse.

From just 150 men armed with a few guns

and machetes, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) has swollen in six months to a tattered army of several thousands mostly unruly and poorly-trained teenagers determined to oust Doe.

The NPFL's self-styled freedom fighters say they already control two thirds of black Africa's oldest independent republic, including vital timber forests, iron ore mines and rubber plantations, after six months of relentless guerrilla warfare.

"Give me Doe any time and I will blow his brains out, man," said Julius Dhan, alias Black Cobra. A member of the NPFL's special forces, or Scorpion Commandos, he was resting at Tapeta, an abandoned Baptist mission in northeastern Nimba county where the uprising began on Dec 24.

"No way we are going to pull back. We want Doe out and nothing will stop us," said the 19-year school drop-out who joined the rebels in January from his native Nimba Mountains.

Julius never parts with the brand new US-made M-16 automatic rifle he captured from government soldiers in a jungle ambush in April. He claimed to be protected by black magic.

"I knew that no-one could kill me as bullets were bouncing off my body. I slit the enemy's throat and took his rifle," he boasted.

Unlike most of Africa's internal strife, the Liberian civil war was no clear ideological roots.

Revolutionary rhetoric is unusual absent and the heroes of these gun-toting, T-shirted jungle youths are not political figures like Nelson Mandela or Che Guevara but Reggae star Bob Marley or movie super-warrior Rambo.

Their leader Charles Taylor is a stocky, 42-year-old who has no military background and proclaims himself "a diehard capitalist."

A US-educated Baptist who fled Liberia in 1983, Taylor is a popular leader who wields a charismatic power over his followers.

## Swiss tighten asylum policy

GENEVA, June 22, (AP): Parliament on Wednesday gave final approval to tighter immigration legislation in an attempt to stem the ever-increasing flow of asylum seekers into Switzerland.

The new law, which takes effect today, speeds up screening procedures to separate genuine refugees fleeing political persecution from people seeking better living conditions.

In a bid to make Switzerland less attractive to economic migrants, it also prohibits asylum seekers from working for the first three months of their stay and suspends payment of child support.

Switzerland, which has a tradition of liberal immigration policies, has recently witnessed a dramatic increase in the number of asylum seekers.

Last year nearly 25,000 people asked for refugee status, even as an additional 40,000 requests from previous years remained outstanding. More than 95 per cent of applications processed in 1989 were rejected. Turks constituted the largest group of asylum seekers, followed by Sri Lankans.

Authorities have anticipated there will be at least 32,000 applications this year, double the 1988 level.

In a country where 16 per cent of the 6.7 million inhabitants are foreigners, the influx of immigrants has become a contentious political issue.

The new legislation cleared the remaining hurdle Wednesday when lawmakers in the upper house approved a controversial clause on child benefits by a 22-14 vote.



A young rebel fighter climbs aboard a Catholic church truck June 13 as teenage fighters to Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia move to the front. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Mysterious Aceh killings

### Indonesia govt. worried

JAKARTA, June 22, (Reuters): A wave of killings by mysterious armed rebels in Indonesia's strictly Muslim northernmost province of Aceh is fast becoming a major source of anxiety to the government, analysts said today.

Nobody is sure who the rebels are or what they want.

Drug tycoons, military deserters and Libyan-trained insurgents are all talked of as possibilities, analysts said.

Most likely, the rebels are ordinary Acehnese tired of economic discrimination by their rulers in Java, they said.

The present spate of killings in the northern Sumatran province began in April. At least six people have died and many others have been injured, the military said.

Human rights groups said they have received unconfirmed reports of 72 casualties among the military alone.

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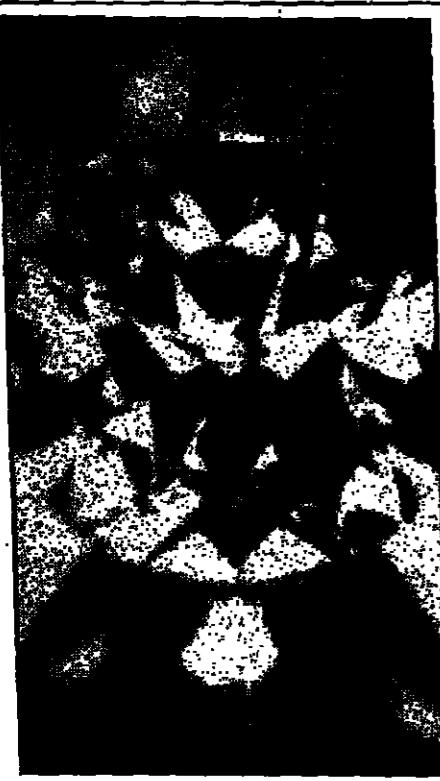
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# World News Roundup



Agra sells for record

The exotic Agra diamond (above), once worn in a 16th century Mogul emperor's turban, became the most expensive pink diamond in the world Wednesday when it sold at auction for a record \$47 million pounds (\$56.95 million).

The 32.24 carat Agra, the largest pink diamond ever auctioned, was sold to Siba Rare Jewels of Hong Kong after fierce bidding at Christie's showroom in London. Siba made the successful bid by telephone.

The Agra sale beat the previous record price for a pink diamond of 3.6 million pounds (\$5.1 million) set at Christie's in May 1989.

Raymond Sancroft-Baker, senior director of Christie's Jewellery Department, said: "I am delighted. I had expected it to fetch 2.5 million pounds (\$4.2 million) to 2.8 million pounds (\$4.7 million). Its history obviously pushed up the price."

The world's seventh largest pink diamond, the Agra was the centrepiece of the most valuable sale of jewellery held in London. Its total of 12.9 million pounds (\$22 million) broke the previous record of 5.5 million pounds (\$49.4 million) set at Christie's in June 1989.

**Bailout deal set:** Bankers have resurrected a plan to pull tycoon Donald Trump back from the brink of insolvency, a bank source said Wednesday, but still had to sell Japanese and other secondary creditors on the deal.

"The general agreement in theory seems to be a go," the source said of a plan by which banks to which Trump owes an estimated \$2 billion would give him some \$60 million new cash and a breather from interest payments.

To service its \$1.3 billion in bonds underlying his three Atlantic City casinos, the cash-starved Trump must refinance \$2 billion borrowed from banks to build his Manhattan real-estate empire and other holdings.

**Dutch insurer withdraws:** A Dutch insurer has pulled out of a plan to build the world's biggest and most luxurious yacht for Donald Trump because it has lost faith in the troubled US property tycoon.

A spokeswoman for NCM, which protects firms against defaulting creditors, said on Wednesday it had cancelled contracts with several companies involved in the construction of the Trump Princess II.

The 128-metre (420-foot) yacht, worth about 400 million guilders (\$200 million), is being built in a small shipyard in the northern Dutch fishing village of Makkum.

"We have withdrawn because we received unfavourable information about Trump's financial position. We no longer have confidence in him," the spokeswoman said. (Reuters)

**Widow wins execution stay:** A woman known as Florida's "Black Widow," convicted of poisoning her husband and drowning her paralysed son, won a 24-hour stay of execution about two hours before she was to go to the electric chair on Thursday.

Judi Buenoano would have been the first woman executed in the United States since 1984 and the first prisoner to go to the chair in the southeastern state of Florida since the controversial execution last month of Jessie Tafero.

Three jolts of electricity were used on Tafero, and flames shot through his head. Witnesses said he appeared to breathe and move between the jolts. (Reuters)

**Amendment rejected:** The US House of Representatives on Thursday rejected a proposed constitutional amendment to protect the American flag against desecration, killing its chances for passage this year.

The desecration of the flag has become a major emotional issue throughout the United States and could figure in congressional elections later this year.

Supporters of the amendment say the flag should be protected as the nation's greatest symbol while opponents argue that it is more important to preserve the full constitutional right to freedom of expression. (Reuters)

**Bush veto overruled:** The House of Representatives voted Wednesday to override President George Bush's veto of legislation broadening the rights of millions of federal workers to participate in politics.

The 327-93 vote was well over the two-thirds majority needed to override the veto. The vote set up an expected showdown Thursday in the Senate, where a close vote is expected.

Bush vetoed the bill last week, saying it "would inevitably lead to repoliticising the federal work force" and destroy the neutrality of civil servants fostered by the 1939 Hatch Act.

The Democratic-controlled Congress has failed to override any of Bush's previous 11 vetoes. (AP)

**Voice had no urgency:** An air traffic controller testified Wednesday that the copilot of a doomed Colombian airliner had no urgency in his voice and did not use the word "emergency" when he reported the jet was low on fuel.

At the start of federal hearings about the crash, which killed 73 people on Jan. 25, controller Philip Brogan said he spoke with the pilot from the New York air route traffic control centre in Ronkonkoma.

The plane, Avianca Flight 52 with 158 people aboard, ran out of fuel and crashed into a wooded hillside in Cove Neck on Long Island on its way to Kennedy international airport in heavy fog and wind. (AP)

**Judge rules against:** A federal judge has ruled that thousands of descendants of an early Texas resident have no claim to a share of the Spindletop oilfield fortune or the estimated \$200 billion worth of oil pumped from it since the Lucas Gusher came in the 1901.

## Hoverspeed

### On course for Blue Riband

LONDON, June 22. (Reuters): The catamaran ferry Hoverspeed Great Britain, attempting the fastest Atlantic crossing by a passenger vessel, completed its first 1,000 miles on Thursday, just over 27 hours after leaving New York.

Its owners, the British company Hoverspeed, said the ship was on schedule in its attempt to capture the Hales Trophy for the Blue Riband transatlantic speed record — won by the liner United States in 1952.

The Hales Trophy was created by British Member of Parliament Harold Hales in the 1930s and was awarded to many British liners as well as an Italian and a German ship before the United States claimed it.

Hoverspeed Great Britain, carrying a crew of 10, is aiming to beat the liner's record of three days, 10 hours and 40 minutes by more than four hours.

The ship is out from Ambrose Light, 12 miles (19 km) from New York Harbour, on Tuesday night. It is due to cross the finishing line off Britain's Scilly Isles early on Saturday.

The 242-foot (73-metre) ship is the world's largest car-carrying catamaran, accommodating 450 passengers and 84 automobiles.

US district judge Howell Cobb's ruling came in the latest of a long series of lawsuits brought by oil companies.

The ruling came in a summary judgement in favour of Amoco Production Inc., Mobil Oil Corp., Phillips Petroleum Co., Texaco Inc. and Chevron Inc. in a suit filed by four relatives who claimed kinship to Pelham Humphries and asked \$200 billion in oil, gas and mineral rights from the companies. (AP)

**Tanker begins cargo transfer:** The Norwegian tanker Mega Borg has begun transferring the remaining 34 million gallons (130 million litres) of crude oil to another vessel nearly two weeks after it exploded in the Gulf of Mexico.

A Coast Guard spokesman in Galveston told Reuters on Thursday the Mega Borg began pumping crude into a smaller vessel, the Janus, around 9.30 pm on Wednesday (0230 GMT Thursday). The process will take about five days to complete. (Reuters)

**Oil slick stalls:** The 30-mile (48-kilometre)-long oil slick from the supertanker Mega Borg has stalled in the Gulf of Mexico and might not hit shore, a Coast Guard official said.

"The longer it stays out there, the more it evaporates and the more [the crews] can pick up," Petty Officer Dave O'Neil said Wednesday. "There might not be anything significant left in a couple of days."

The slick floated about 10 miles (16 kilometres) off the Texas shore northeast of Galveston and showed few signs of moving, the coast guard said. (AP)

**Cop kills suspect:** A police officer shot and killed an unarmed man at point blank range on the corner of the Boulevard St. Germain and the Boulevard Saint-Michel in Paris on Wednesday after forcing him to lie on the ground along with four other people suspected of plying fake traveller's cheques, witnesses said.

The bizarre incident happened around 1 pm as tourists hunted for restaurants in the heart of the Latin quarter on the fashionable left bank under sunny skies. Police arrested three men aged between 25 and 30 years old and two young women and ordered the five to lie stretched on the sidewalk on the angle of the two boulevards so they could be handcuffed. (UPI)

**French judges protest:** French judges, defying laws barring them from striking, postponed trials and staged protests across France Thursday in an unprecedented walkout organised to demand more autonomy and better working conditions. A majority of the 6,000 judges participated in the "Day of National Action" and only urgent criminal cases were heard in several cities.

The judges say the judiciary has been

degraded by inadequate facilities, budget restrictions and an excessive workload. In Paris and other major cities, judges abandoned their chambers to attend union rallies. (AP)

**Britain's press warned:** Home Secretary David Waddington warned the British press on Thursday it had a last chance to regulate itself or face government legislation.

He told parliament he endorsed a government committee's call for a press complaints commission to be set up to curb media excesses.

The committee called for the commission to be established within 12 months and said media violations of privacy should be made a criminal offence.

Waddington said: "This is positively the last chance for the industry to establish an effective non-statutory system of regulation and I strongly hope that it will seize the opportunity."

"If no steps are taken to establish a commission, the government will set up a statutory framework, taking account of the committee's recommendation." (Reuters)

**Nazi war crimes bill:** The British government said on Thursday it would reintroduce a Nazi War Crimes Bill rejected by the House of Lords, the non-elected upper house of Parliament.

The legislation, if passed, would open the way for the prosecution of suspected World War Two war criminals who were not British subjects when their alleged offences were committed.

Deputy Prime Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe told parliament the government would seek to get the bill approved in the next session starting in November.

More than 70 people live in Britain who could be investigated for involvement in mass killings in German-occupied Baltic territories now part of the Soviet Union. (Reuters)

**Over 1980 crash:** Italy's military intelligence chief told an official inquiry into a mysterious 1980 airline crash that he doubted assertions by the United States, Britain and France that they knew nothing about the incident.

Admiral Fulvio Martini, testifying on Wednesday to a parliamentary commission of inquiry in Rome, said Italy had asked the secret services of the United States, Britain, France, Israel, Greece, Libya, Malta and Yugoslavia that they could shed any light on the crash in the Mediterranean off Italy.

A report last month by a panel of Italian experts was divided over whether the DC-9 crash, in which all 81 people were killed, was caused by a terrorist bomb or whether the plane was accidentally shot down by an unidentified air-to-air missile. (Reuters)

**Mafia roots in Apulia:** Italian investigators said on Thursday they feared Mafia-style organised crime had taken root for the first time in southeast Italy.

A senior judge in the City of Bari ordered 76 people to stand trial on charges of criminal association for the purposes of drug trafficking and extortion.

Judge Alberto Marziti issued the trial order after a two-year inquiry by magistrates and customs police in the Apulia region, where the heel of Italy's boot shape begins. (Reuters)

**Spanish court overrules ban:** Spain's highest court ruled on Thursday that Basque separatists elected to parliament could take their seats, in a move that threatens to deprive Socialist Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez of his overall majority.

The constitutional court's unanimous ruling, released to the media, overturned a ban on the four elected members of the Herri Batasuna (HB) party who had refused to take the agreed oath to Spain's constitution.

The ruling, ending legal disputes which marred the results of last October's general election, gave the combined opposition 175 of the 350 seats in congress (lower house), the same number as Gonzalez's ruling Socialist Workers Party (PSOE) (Reuters).

**Bomb blasts wreck cars:** Time-bombs wrecked three cars in a wealthy Athens suburb on Thursday, but caused no injuries, police said.

The bombs were placed under the cars in the northern suburb of Kifissia, where some foreign diplomats live. It was the fifth similar bomb attack in Athens in two months.

**Water wasters warned:** Athenians who use hoses to wash their cars or the pavements outside their homes, or steal water from public reservoirs for farming, could face jail terms and fines, the Greek government said on Wednesday.

The judges say the judiciary has been



Aussie stuntman injured

Australian waterski stuntman Geoff Carrington was critically injured prematurely and threw him into a pier June 20. Carrington did stunt for a US television production. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Japan Art Association awards

### Bernstein, Fellini among winners

LONDON, June 22. (AP): American composer Leonard Bernstein, Italian filmmaker Federico Fellini and British architect James Stirling will receive 100,000 dollars each as winners of the Praemium Imperiale Prize, the Japan Art Association announced Thursday.

Helped and hindered by highspeed technology and communications. But our legacy is not in the temporal world but in the reflections of the spirit in the arts," David Rockefeller, an international adviser to the prize, said at a news conference held to announce the

prize.

Other international advisers include Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, former West German chancellor Helmut Schmidt and former Italian premier Amintore Fanfani.

Fellini, one of Italy's leading directors who has a style that is instantly recognizable, has received four academy awards including the Cannes film festival's top prize in 1960 for "La Dolce Vita."

Stirling's works include the State Gallery in Stuttgart, the Clore Gallery at the Turner collection at Kensington's Royal College and the University of Glasgow's Mackintosh Museum. The 64-year-old Glasgow-born architect also designed Cornell University's Johnson Graduate School and the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts.

Cesar Cull, a federal legislator from Mexico's right-of-centre opposition, the National Action Party, or Pan, said Thursday the government was trying to intimidate Casanova. (AP)

**Cuban prosecutor seeks terms:** Cuba's state prosecutor is seeking prison terms of between 10 and 12 years for a group of political dissidents accused of conspiracy and rebellion against the country's communist government, state media reported on Thursday.

The Cuban News Agency Press Latina said a court in Havana heard evidence on Wednesday against seven men from a self-styled organisation called the Democratic Integration Movement (MID).

The court prepared at the start of 1989, the other state news agency AIN said. (Reuters)

**Cabral to probe:** Justice Minister Bernardo Cabral said Wednesday he would investigate the cases of Brazilian police brutality denounced in a report by Amnesty International.

"The Justice Ministry does not accept and back (police) violence, including violence to prisoners, and it will do everything at its disposal to oppose it," Cabral said in a statement.

Amnesty International, the London-based human rights organisation, said Monday in a report titled "torture and extrajudicial execution Brazil" that uniformed police were blamed for 583 murders in 1989. (UPI)

A police spokesman said Medellin police commander Brigadier-General Humberto Camero Maldonado was being transferred to the police national directorate in Bogota, the latest change in the command of the security forces before president-elect Cesar Gavira takes office in August. (Reuters)

**Cuba ready to aid Nicaragua:** Former Nicaraguan president Daniel Ortega said on Wednesday Cuban President Fidel Castro was ready to continue giving aid to Nicaragua especially in the health sector.

"We support the idea of Cuba's co-operation to help our people and we speak about that with Fidel (Castro), who is ready to give us that help, especially in the area of health," Ortega told reporters at Havana airport before returning home after a three-day visit to Cuba.

Ortega, whose left-wing Sandinista government was defeated by US-backed candidate Violeta Chamorro in elections last February 25, had a number of meetings with Castro during his stay. (Reuters)

**Bogota security force shakeup:** Colombia pressed on with a security force shakeup on Thursday and a newspaper reported that all 4,000 policemen in the drug centre of Medellin could be replaced to avoid infiltration by paramilitaries.

A police spokesman said Medellin police commander Brigadier-General Humberto Camero Maldonado was being transferred to the police national directorate in Bogota, the latest change in the command of the security forces before president-elect Cesar Gavira takes office in August. (Reuters)

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Ortega, whose left-wing Sandinista government was defeated by US-backed candidate Violeta Chamorro in elections last February 25, had a number of meetings with Castro during his stay. (Reuters)

**Brussels in Paris:** Ronnie Brunswijk, the critic of the kidnapped American gold miner Scott Heimdal, said Wednesday they have taken over negotiations with their son's abductors so they can personally work for his release.

Roy and Marge Heimdal of Peoria, Illinois, arrived in Quito late Monday in the hope of winning the release of their 27-year-old son, who was kidnapped April 28 near the Colombian border by men believed to be communist guerrillas.

In a statement released Wednesday through the US embassy, the Heimdales said they were taking "direct charge of all negotiations with the persons who have our son Scott." (AP)

**Salvador peace talks:** Negotiators in UN-mediated Salvadoran peace talks suspended discussion twice on Thursday as they grappled for a third day with the thorny issue of the armed forces' impunity in human rights cases.

"The talks were suspended two times and were about to break because of the heated arguments we had over the issue of the armed forces, but the UN representative brought us back to the negotiating table," a rebel negotiator, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press. (AP)

**Mexico tank explosion, 1 dead:** An ammonia storage tank exploded in northern Mexico early on Wednesday, spewing noxious fumes that killed one person, injured scores and forced the evacuation of about 3,000 people from a residential area, a Red Cross spokeswoman said.

She said the Red Cross treated 94 people for ammonia intoxication after the tank exploded in an ice factory in the town of San Nicolas de Los Garza, near the industrial city of Monterrey. (Reuters)

## INTERNATIONAL

# Rightists planned to kill Mandela, 11 questioned

JOHANNESBURG, June 22. (AP): Police questioned 11 whites in connection with a right-wing plot to assassinate African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela and President F.W. de Klerk, officials said today.

The plan called for Mandela to be shot by a sniper at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts airport after he returns July 18 from his six-week tour of North America, Africa and Europe, the Afrikaans-language weekly newspaper *Vryweekblad* reported.

The newspaper said the plot was

exposed by Jannie Smith, a former security policeman and National Intelligence Service agent, after he infiltrated far-right groups that included the Afrikaner Resistance Movement.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Law and Order, Captain Peet Bothma, confirmed that 11 white men detained for questioning had been released.

Captain Bothma said the 11 had been held under section 50 of the Criminal Procedures Act, which allows the police to hold a suspect for 48 hours for questioning.

If the police believed there was a specific case to pursue they would present the information to the Attorney-General, who may then decide whether to prosecute, he said.

"So far we don't have much, but there are certain leads that we are following," Bothma said.

He said security for government ministers had been "stepped up some time ago."

South African police do not normally protect Mandela.

The newspaper quoted Smith as saying De Klerk, South African Communist Party leader Joe Slovo, Minister of Law and Order Adriaan Vlok, Minister of Foreign Affairs Piki Botha and Minister of Defence Magnus Malan were also threatened by right wing elements.

Some prominent staff members of the government-run South African Broadcasting Corporation television station were also on the hit list, the report said.

De Klerk's government this year freed Mandela from 27 years in prison,

scrapped some apartheid laws and lifted repressive state of emergency measures in most of the country.

The Afrikaner Resistance Movement also planned to blow up power stations, eliminate members of parliament and poison the water supply to Soweto, a huge black residential area outside Johannesburg, the newspaper report said.

The plot to kill Mandela, deputy president of the African National Congress, was planned by former Nazi cap-

tain Heinrich Beissner, the newspaper said. It said Beissner, 77, is now a regional head of the right-wing Afrikaner Resistance Movement in South Africa.

The newspaper said Smith was told June 19 that he was to carry out the Mandela assassination using a rifle with telescopic sights. He also was asked to kill Slovo.

A council member on the right-wing Boksburg town council, T.J. Ferreira was among those arrested on Thursday, the report said.

## Probe on Honecker opens in W. Berlin

WEST BERLIN, June 22. (AP): A prosecutor yesterday opened a criminal investigation against former East German leader Erich Honecker for allegedly harbouring West German leftist terrorists.

If convicted Honecker would face a maximum sentence of five years in prison. His secret police chief has also been targeted for a probe.

East Germany's recent arrests of most wanted members of the Red Army faction terror gang have helped confirm suspicions that Honecker's now-ousted communist government sheltered the fugitives.

The 77-year-old Honecker has denied supporting terrorists.

Earlier this week, East German Interior Minister Peter-Michael Diestel said the harbouring terrorists was the "personal hobby" of Honecker and his ousted secret police chief, Erich Mielke. Diestel promised East German criminal probes of those responsible.

In the West German city of Karlsruhe yesterday, state prosecutor Gerhard Klass said he had opened an investigation against Honecker for alleged "obstruction of justice."

"We suspect that Honecker and his secret police agents hindered the pursuit of Red Faction terrorists sought in arrest warrants," Klass told reporters.

Klass said the suspicion involves "providing most wanted criminals a place to live, false identity, etc."

In a telephone interview later with the Associated Press, Klass said the maximum penalty ranges from a five-mark fine to five years in prison.

"This does not involve only Honecker, it includes Mielke, and all the way down to the ones that knowingly gave them shelter," Klass said.

The Baden-Wuerttemberg state prosecutor said he has jurisdiction in the case because the original arrest warrants against the terrorists were issued in Karlsruhe.

However, the federal prosecutor's office, which is located in Karlsruhe and which issued the warrants, has said it does not plan to probe Honecker at the present time.

Asked if he really expected Honecker or any of the others to be extradited for trial, Klass responded: "That we can't even speculate at this time. We have to see what the investigation turns up."

■ Prosecutors expect to decide within the next month whether Bulgaria's disgraced communist leader Todor Zhivkov should face trial for corruption and abuse of power, the state news agency BTA said yesterday.

It quoted deputy public prosecutor Spas Muktarov as saying the deadline was set by law in the preliminary investigation against Zhivkov, who was ousted by reformist communists in November. (Reuter)

## Romanians asked to co-operate

BUCHAREST, June 22. (Reuter): President Ion Iliescu has relinquished his post as chairman of Romania's ruling National Salvation Front (NSF) in compliance with electoral law, the Front said today.

Iliescu, 59, was seriously considering quitting as general secretary of the 19-million-strong Soviet Communist Party, a post he holds as well as state president.

Gorbachev himself gave an apparent hint on Wednesday when, irritated by critics, he said he may cease to be party chief in 10 or 12 days.

Meanwhile he clashed again with communist conservatives who accused him of failing to consult the party over his plans to shift the country onto a market economy.

The unofficial news agency Interfax also reported that a group of veterans and workers who met Gorbachev in the Kremlin on Thursday accused him of failing to oppose a wave of "counter-revolution" in Moscow and the second city, Leningrad.

It said that only by leaving quickly could "the citizens allow the security forces to quickly quell any fresh unrest."

"The Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of National Defence call on the population of Romania to firmly dissociate themselves from any violence should it ever be initiated by extremists, and to walk out of the area where it may occur," the appeal said.

Students' league spokesman Radu Manolescu said over 2,000 students were boycotting studies.

At his side, a sobbing Letitia Ploky said she feared for the life of her husband Stefan, a 26-year-old philosophy student, whom she had not seen since he was dragged away by the miners who crushed last week's demonstrators.

"The police say he was taken away yesterday, but they could not say where," she said.



Mandela waves the key to New York City, given to him by Mayor David Dinkins (right) in New York on June 20 as Winnie Mandela looks on. Mandela told the city hall crowd 'Apartheid is doomed.' (Reuter wirephoto)

Mandela and his wife Winnie riding in the 'Mandela mobile', wave to the hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers who lined up in lower Manhattan for a ticker tape parade. (Reuter wirephoto)

Mandela greets singer Tracy Chapman (right) as Winnie greets singer Judy Collins during a concert rally at Yankee Stadium. (Reuter wirephoto)

# Mandela refuses to disown Arafat

NEW YORK, June 22. (Agencies): Anti-apartheid activist Nelson Mandela, arousing the same anger he's witnessed since his arrival in America, met with New York business leaders this morning to assuage their doubts about investing in South Africa.

Mandela spoke with 450 representatives of top US companies and other corporate executives at the World Trade Centre before heading for the United Nations to address a global audience on his last day here.

He leaves Saturday morning for Boston.

"He was bringing hope to these people about the future, and they responded extremely well," Richard Leone, chairman of the New York City region's Public Trade and Transportation Agency, said of the business gathering. "There was a crackling excitement in the audience of this type."

Mandela told reporters after the

meeting that "the reception has been beyond my wildest dreams."

The outpouring of emotion since his arrival in the city on Wednesday will send him back to South Africa "strong and inspired," Mandela told the crowd, as New York City Mayor David Dinkins flashed an enthusiastic hand gesture.

Mandela started Friday with an early-morning stroll with Dinkins through a park near Gracie Mansion, the mayor's residence, where he is staying.

"As we enter the last decade of the 20th century, it is intolerable, unacceptable, that the cancer of racism is still eating away at the fabric of societies in different parts of our planet," he said.

"All of us black and white, should spare no effort in our struggle against all forms and manifestations of racism, wherever and whenever it rears its ugly head."

Organisers said the stadium raised

more than 250,000 dollars for the ANC.

Mandela, triggering a wave of adulation through New York that some are calling "Mandela mania," attempted in a series of interviews on Thursday to allay fears that if his movement triumphed it would move to nationalise South Africa's wealth.

But he also sparked some controversy as he repeatedly and in powerful language refused to disown three world leaders often at odds with the United States — the PLO's Yasser Arafat, Cuba's Fidel Castro and Libya's Muammar Gaddafi, saying they had aided his cause.

Meanwhile, Harlem, the black capital of America, gave him its heart on Thursday night, and Yankee Stadium — where baseball is often a lost cause — suddenly had a winner.

Mandela gave rousing speeches to more than 50,000 New Yorkers crammed into the famed stadium and at least

100,000 more who crowded the main street of Harlem to cheer lustily and weep openly on the spot where black heroes have traditionally voiced their dreams.

The South African black leader left Yankee Stadium to the cheers of thousands wearing Yankee jacket and cap, saying, "I know who I am, I am a Yankee." The stadium houses the team with the worst record in baseball.

In a free-wheeling television interview, attended by a wildly enthusiastic audience of 1,000, Mandela was asked if he would impose a Marxist or socialist government and said, "I don't care if the cat is black or white — as long as it catches mice."

In an interview with the New York Times, he said South Africa's National Congress was not wedded to socialism and supported state participation in the economy only to the extent it was needed to redress gross disparities in

wealth between whites and blacks.

Mandela is expected to further discuss his vision of a South African future in a speech to the United Nations on Friday and in a news conference there.

Not even the Empire State Building was immune to the "Mandela mania" sweeping New York. It was lit up on Thursday night in the gold, green and black colours of the African National Congress of which Mandela is deputy president.

Harlem called the Soviets of America for the night as people grabbed every available inch of space on 125th Street at Seventh Avenue to hear him declare that apartheid was doomed.

Mandela, 71, showed charm and conviction in his television interview. He refused to disown Arafat, Gaddafi and Castro.

"One of the mistakes political analysts make is to think their enemies

should be our enemies. Our attitude toward any country is their attitude toward our struggle."

Gaddafi, Castro and Arafat support our struggle to the hilt ... we identify with the PLO because they are fighting for the right of self-determination just like we are."

Mandela's next planned audience in the United States, the United Nations, has led the battle against apartheid in the international arena and demanded sanctions against South Africa.

Scheduled to speak Friday in the General Assembly hall, Mandela will be preaching to the converted if he urges the international community to maintain sanctions until South Africa abolishes apartheid.

Over the years, the 159-nation body has denounced the system of racial segregation. It has called for the release of Mandela and all political prisoners and the establishment of a non-racial democracy.

Asked if he really expected Honecker or any of the others to be extradited for trial, Klass responded: "That we can't even speculate at this time. We have to see what the investigation turns up."

■ Prosecutors expect to decide within the next month whether Bulgaria's disgraced communist leader Todor Zhivkov should face trial for corruption and abuse of power, the state news agency BTA said yesterday.

It quoted deputy public prosecutor Spas Muktarov as saying the deadline was set by law in the preliminary investigation against Zhivkov, who was ousted by reformist communists in November. (Reuter)

## Kremlin plan rejected

German economic union treaty clears last hurdle

EAST BERLIN, June 22. (Reuter): The Soviet Union called today for phased troop cuts by the four World War Two allies in Germany and a ceiling on a future German army, but Western countries rejected limits on the new state's forces.

Diplomats said the United States, Britain and West Germany immediately opposed the plan presented by Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to so-called "two-plus-four" talks on the international issues linked to German unification.

Shevardnadze's proposal, part of a full draft agreement that surprised

East-West troops cuts should be worked out at Vienna talks on conventional troop reductions, they said.

Earlier today, Shevardnadze upstaged US Secretary of State James Baker by proposing a full allied troop withdrawal from Berlin within six months after unification.

Berliners crowding around the Checkpoint Charlie crossing point in the Berlin Wall applauded loudly when he made the proposals during a ceremony which Baker hosted to mark the dismantling of an allied observation post there.

Western diplomats said Moscow appeared to be trying to force the pace of the talks with its wartime allies — and both Germans.

The Soviet Union has been increasingly isolated in the six-country group because it opposes plans approved by all others to include a united Germany in Nato.

Baker and West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher insisted yesterday that the alliance question — the thorniest issue facing the talks due to end by November — should not be discussed here.

The pace of German unification quickened today when the upper house of the Bonn parliament ratified a treaty merging the economies of the two states created out of the rubble of World War Two.

The "yes" vote in the upper house, the Bundesrat, was the final legislative hurdle and the treaty, introducing the powerful West German mark and the free market system into East Germany, Britain, France and the United States.

He used the occasion to propose that all the former allies' troops be withdrawn from Berlin within six months after German unification, expected to be sealed by German elections in December.

Soviet and US tanks once faced off nose-to-nose at Checkpoint Charlie, and East Germans were shot at and sometimes killed in desperate dashes over the wall, turning the boundary hut into an incarnation of the cold war.

The incumbent government, also headed by Genscher, will resign Wednesday and the new government will be appointed by Havel, CTK said.

Agreement came two days after the Christian Democratic Movement, which had first refused to join the new government, returned to coalition talks.

## Charlie becomes a relic

WEST BERLIN, June 22. (Reuter): Checkpoint Charlie, the Berlin Wall border post that symbolised the cold war, was hoisted into history on Friday.

As a brass band played and foreign ministers of the four World War II allies watched, a crane lifted the prefabricated hut with its US, British and French flags and placed it on a flattened truck to be taken to a museum.

Western diplomats said Moscow appeared to be trying to force the pace of the talks with its wartime allies — and both Germans.

The checkpoint symbolised our conviction as allies that Berlin should remain one city and travel within it should be free," British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said in a speech.

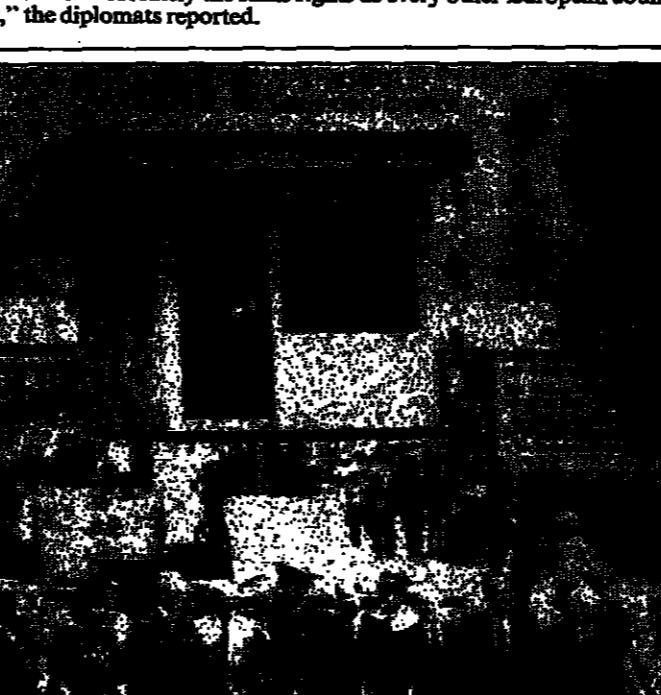
"We always hoped that one day Checkpoint Charlie would no longer be needed and now that day has arrived. At long last, we are bringing Charlie in from the cold," he added.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze attended the ceremony in a gesture of reconciliation with the Western members of the wartime alliance.

He used the occasion to propose that all the former allies' troops be withdrawn from Berlin within six months after German unification, expected to be sealed by German elections in December.

Soviet and US tanks once faced off nose-to-nose at Checkpoint Charlie, and East Germans were shot at and sometimes killed in desperate dashes over the wall, turning the boundary hut into an incarnation of the cold war.

He was accused of killing several demonstrators and ordering his men to shoot at



Checkpoint Charlie lifted

The Allied facility at Checkpoint Charlie lifted by a crane is removed in the presence of the ministers for foreign affairs of US, Great Britain, Soviet Union, France, East and West Germany, the mayors of East and West Berlin and former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt standing in the front line during the ceremony in Berlin, June 22. (Reuter photo)

crowds during the popular uprising that ousted his brother.

Judge Adrian Nitisor, pointing out that Andruța could have been jailed for life, told Reuters: "The court verdict was an act of justice and not revenge."

Andruța, who bears a remarkable resemblance to his older brother, told the three judges

# Cabinet to complement democratic process

## State, citizens urged to co-operate

KUWAIT, June 22, (Kuna): The state and citizens have been urged to work side-by-side toward realising public interest.

Commenting on the formation Wednesday of Kuwait's 14th cabinet by HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, a local daily said in its front-page editorial that the new cabinet comes to complement the democratic process of the country, which started with the June 10 elections of the National Council.

Wishing the new government all the success in its task, the paper thanked all

ministers who took part in the previous cabinet and were not included in new lineup.

Meanwhile, a Kuwait Radio commentary said yesterday that the main tasks of the new government, as laid out by His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, are coherent with the new delicate stage Kuwait has just entered.

Sheikh Saad, when presenting the new government to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Jaber, said the

government will focus on building the Kuwaiti man, develop his abilities and talents and prepare him for achieving a quantum leap in various fields.

He also said that the next few years must be marked with unity and co-operation to meet the requirements of a decisive era of the local and national march.

The radio said the Kuwaiti people are looking forward to establishing a foundation of solid basis for a renewed parliamentary life based on genuine co-operation among the three branches of the govern-

ment. "Forming a new government and the results of the National Council elections were met with optimism. We are walking toward a new stage characterised by firm determination for honest devotion to the national cause," the commentary said.

It concluded that "forming a new government came to reflect a deep belief (of the leadership) that co-operation with the National Council is the cornerstone for achieving the lively democratic practice and stability."

## Ghadeer tremor claims denied

**WELL-INFORMED** sources have been quoted as denying news reports published by a local daily claiming that the Umm Al Ghadeer area was rocked by tremor last week.

The sources said that oil company sites did not sustain any damage. He pointed out that all these news reports were mere allegations and void of any truth.

Sources added that these sites, which are close to Ahmad Al Jaber military base, might have been affected by the regular flying exercises which at times require the aircraft to fly low above ground surface level, which is basically an open desert area.

The sources stressed that this phenomenon had occurred on a number of occasions, and that if the event was a tremor the oil facilities in the area would have sustained noticeable damage.

Meanwhile, the head of the Kuwait Geology Department Dr Ibrahim Al Refai said that Kuwait is located on an open semi-stable area which is not amenable to seismological phenomenon. The nearest area to Kuwait where earthquakes are known to have occurred and possibly mildly affected Kuwait is about 200 miles away, in the Iranian mountains of Zagros.

The director of the Environmental and Earth Sciences Division at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research Dr Dari Al Ajemi said that the Council of Ministers had recently endorsed a proposal for the construction of a special observatory for seismological phenomenon. The proposed date for completion of construction is February next year.

## Dialogue suspension may increase terrorism

KUWAIT, June 22, (Kuna): Member of the Central Committee of the Palestinian National Liberation Front (Fatah) Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad) said yesterday he regrets the decision taken by US President George Bush on suspending the dialogue with the PLO.

Speaking to a local daily by phone from Tunisia Abu Iyad said Bush's decision challenges resolutions taken by the recent emergency summit held in Baghdad this month. The US decision also does not serve US interests and will lead to freezing peace prospects in the region.

The US decision will also encourage the Israeli government on implementing its plans against Arab countries and the Palestinian intifada, he warned.

Abu Iyad stressed that suspension of the dialogue with the PLO will assist in escalating terrorist actions in the region, and therefore, the US should bear the consequences.

The Palestine official called on Arab countries to take immediate action in accordance with the decision taken by the Baghdad Summit, adding that the PLO executive committee had begun an emergency meeting in Baghdad last night to decide on a reaction to the US decision.

The official denied reports that the PLO had set up a committee to investigate the sea-borne operation on Israeli beaches as some news agencies said, adding that "the US decision had stopped everything."



Wheat harvest festival

Under the patronage of the Education Ministry undersecretary Abdul Rahman Al Khodari, the Hawally Education Area held its second wheat harvest festival for the academic year 1989/90. A total of 77 schools of various educational stages took part in the programme of contests and competitions for the festival. The total area cultivated with wheat was 11,485 square metres.

This contest is annually organised in response to the noble wish of HH the Amir for the growing of wheat in the country as a strategic food commodity. It is one of the means adopted to achieve local self-sufficiency and ensure food for all.

430,000 already arrive

## Muslims converge on Makkah for pilgrimage

CAIRO, June 22, (Reuter): More than a million white-robed Muslims from around the world are converging on Saudi Arabia for next week's haj to Makkah, but Iran is boycotting Islam's holiest pilgrimage for the third year running.

Saudi Arabia has threatened to deal harshly with anyone attempting to disrupt the haj, previously hit by bomb and riot. Anyone found with political pamphlets or other banned material will be punished without leniency, it warned.

At least 430,000 people have already arrived in the kingdom by ship, plane and overland bus. They are being joined by hundreds of thousands more living in the country.

But the haj, one of the world's biggest religious rituals, is once again being marred by a war of words between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

"For years the haj remained far from political and sectarian fighting until Iran began its inappropriate behaviour against the holy

sites, forcing the kingdom to take every precaution to guarantee the security of the pilgrims," Saudi Arabia's Al Riyad newspaper said.

Iran is steadfastly continuing the boycott it has maintained since the 1987 haj, when 400 mainly Iranian pilgrims were killed in clashes with Saudi security forces during anti-Western protests.

The Saudi people and government will try to provide the pilgrims with all means that can facilitate their pilgrimage.

The Saudi directorate-general of passports called on all residents and visitors to carry identity papers, especially during the haj.

It said pilgrims would be asked to produce their haj permits at checkpoints along the road leading to Makkah.

"Those arriving for the pilgrimage have no right to work and anyone staying behind will be liable to punishment," the directorate general said.

Informed Arab sources said that Prince Saud's talks with the officials at the Vatican will tackle the Lebanese crisis.

## US experts debate Saudi arms issue

WASHINGTON, June 22, (Kuna): A newly-proposed \$4 billion US sale of defensive armaments to Saudi Arabia was in the US and regional interest had only "minimally" threatened Israel's security, state and Defence Department experts argued on Tuesday.

Primarily at issue are 1,100 light armoured vehicles (LAVs), Awacs radar plane computers, software upgrades, 2,000 TOW 2A anti-tank weapons and 24 non self-propelled 155mm howitzers.

They also stressed that the light armoured vehicles were not tanks in the customary sense; machine-guns constituting the primary weapon on most of the LAV variants.

Only 10 per cent of the thin-skinned armoured vehicles would be equipped to fire TOW anti-tank missiles, the US officials stressed.

Rope, Smith and Covey pointed out that the LAVs would perform mainly an internal security role and would replace earlier armoured cars in the Saudi inventory — now about 15 years old and outdated.

To modifications of the kingdom's 13 US-made Awacs radar planes, the State Department and Pentagon experts told the American politicians they would "enhance their navigation and self-protection capabilities."

Committee members, most of them intensely pro-Israel, barraged the men with hostile questions about the sale's wisdom and appeared largely dissatisfied with the answers.

The administration witnesses

basically argued that because Saudi Arabia — whose stability they underscored — was in a rough neighbourhood, "the kingdom need and deserved defensive weapons."

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What is more, the US will reap

large financial benefits from the cash sale, they said, emphasising that the arms packages "will yield over 11,000 worker-years of employment in at least 24 states."

The Awacs contract alone will "generate additional employment in eight states," the three senior officials also affirmed, although none of the Congressmen inquired about such economic benefits to the US economy.

If the US refuses to sell the defensive gear, the Swiss and others would be more than glad to fill the void, the Pentagon and State Department officials cautioned.

Finally, Saudi Arabia has been instrumental in helping resolve crises in Lebanon and elsewhere in the Middle East and other regions, and thus deserves continued access to high-quality American defence weapons, they stated.

They were asked as well about a related issue — China's sale of CSS-2 ballistic missiles to Saudi Arabia.

What is more, the US will reap

ACCORDING to well-informed sources, the transitional newly-elected National Council is expected to hold its first session on Wednesday June 27.

The sources were quoted as saying that an Amiri decree will be issued calling the council into session following the formation of the new cabinet and the appointment of the 25 councillors.

The sources pointed out that contacts and wide deliberations are currently under way to agree on the nomination of a chairman for the council. The elected member is expected to be a personality who has occupied a number of senior official positions, with extensive experience and has distinguished relations both at home and abroad.

The sources believe that discussion during the first council session will centre on the exchange of views regarding the formation of sub-committees and recommended operation plan based on the present scale of priorities.

## Al Ain zoo to release endangered species into desert

AL AIN, June 22, (Reuter): The penguins at Al Ain relax in air-conditioned quarters when not enjoying their pool in the middle of the desert.

The zoo at Al Ain in the United Arab Emirates has been transformed in recent years from a small enclosure with 300 animals into an eight square km (three square miles) complex with 30,000 creatures and the biggest aquarium outside Japan and the United States.

For those species who object to summer temperatures of more than 40 degrees Centigrade (over 100 degree Fahrenheit), air-conditioned rooms are available to cool off.

Zoo officials say their main priority now is to breed and release back into the desert as many of the large number of

native endangered species that can.

"We are working to protect wildlife especially the endangered species. Our main task is to restore the balance of nature through increasing native animals and birds," manager Ghassan Amin Jaradi told Reuters.

Most of the zoo's 1,500 species are imported but 15 native species have been caught for breeding.

Nomadic Arab tribes always hunted local wildlife. But the advent of guns and vehicles coupled with the riches brought by oil turned hunting into wholesale slaughter and many species were wiped out.

Survivors include the elegant little Red Fox and the Sand Fox, the very rare Arabian wolf, some

gazelle species, and the shy Sand Cat. Birds also suffered severely.

Jaradi's pride is a herd of 200 Arabian Oryx, a large white deer with sweeping, pointed horns which one tradition says was the origin of the unicorn legend. The Oryx has been extinct locally since 1963.

The herd was bred from four animals caught by UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan during a hunting trip to Saudi Arabia's wild and remote empty quarter.

"We plan to set these animals free gradually so they can breed in the wild," said Jaradi.

"But the animals and birds we reintroduce are only natives because introducing new species would upset the balance again," he said.

The zoo, which was founded in

1970 near the oasis city of Al Ain, attracted more than half a million visitors last year.

Ironically, with falling oil revenues in the region due to depressed world oil prices, local economists say the increased interest in ecology has been inspired partly by the realisation that tourists want to see nature, not oil wells.

An increase in the amount of land used for agriculture, as the UAE has grown more of its own food, has also encouraged more birds to return to the wild.

There is no environment ministry in the UAE but other ministries have started to take an interest.

"Thousands of acres have been planted and the native wildlife has a chance to recover," said one Ministry of Agriculture

official.

Hunting is now banned in the UAE, but the ban does not include the bustard, the bird traditionally hunted by the keen Arab falconers in the region.

However, Sheikh Zayed, a falconer himself, set up exclusion zones for the bustards and Jaradi said his zoo had succeeded in breeding the birds in large numbers.

He said the birds would be fitted with monitoring devices but the exclusion zones would eventually need to be extended.

Jaradi has 180 staff and a \$3.3 million annual budget to achieve his objectives.

"What encourages us is that we can feel the results of our efforts. Seeing birds in the area has become more common," he said.

PIA

## Level of education deteriorating: officials

### Students showing no enthusiasm

THE decline of educational levels could be attributed to several factors which eventually could lead to negative effects. Among these factors are family problems, the absence of co-operation between parents and the school administration, lack of parental control on their children and related follow up in addition to other psychological

subject to the necessary evaluation conducted by a specialised committee. She disclosed that the committee members were secretly asking students about their opinions on the teachers. Additionally, there is an academic committee which appraises the performance of instructors and other teaching staff.

#### Reasons

D. Abdulrahman Al Ghannem from the Educational Planning Department, said that the decline of students could be attributed to several reasons including the curriculum level particularly during the secondary stage, the absence of the necessary co-operation between families and the school administration, and the inefficiency of some teachers.

This issue, he said should be given the necessary concern particularly in the light of government intention to rationalise the teaching budget which will negatively affect the teaching process.

He suggested that the necessary training courses to sustain their efficiency could be organised. He also added that the high level of affluence prevailing in Kuwait had resulted in Kuwaiti students showing no enthusiasm for the educational process.

#### Follow up

Mahmoud Wagdi, a mathematics inspector attributed the decline of the educational level among students to the lack of co-operation between the family and the school and the absence of the necessary follow up by parents. Najah Barnawi, another inspector at the Ministry of Education, said that the educational level in Kuwait was an equivocal issue. Headed that this problem was different from one country to another and it depends on the students' circumstances.

He added that the school administration should pay more concern to poor students from the beginning of each academic year.

He added that the relevant families should be notified about the educational level of their children, and they should be urged to co-operate with the school administration for the sake of their children.

He emphasised the importance of creating good relations between the students and their teachers in addition to intensifying pedagogical efforts at each school and holding of open meetings between parents and teachers.

## Lenoci here

DUBAI, June 22, (Kuna): Italian Foreign Ministry undersecretary, Claudio Lenoci, arrived in Kuwait yesterday after concluding a four-day visit to the United Arab Emirates.

During his stay in the UAE, Lenoci met with officials of the Arab soap and detergent industries and the other seminars convened within its framework.

The conference to be organised in co-operation with the Tunisian Ministry of National Economy will concentrate on the reality of the soap industry in the Arab countries and recommendations to face the problems encountered in the marketing of the products of the industry.

The conference will be attended by representatives from the Arab ministries of commerce and industry, health and oil, in addition to delegates representing Arab Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the companies concerned.

## First session of National Council on June 27

ACCORDING to well-informed sources, the transitional newly-elected National Council is expected to hold its first session on Wednesday June 27.

The sources were quoted as saying that an

# Election turnout indicates people support: Mousharak

## Winners and losers will serve Kuwait

By Lima Al Khalafawi  
Arab Times staff

**ELECTION** results of the Interim National Council proved that "the Kuwaiti people are one family far from what previously practiced in some dyanias," according to the head of Kuwait's Boxing and Weightlifting Federation, Sheikh Mousharak Jaber Al Ali Al Sabah.

Talking on the turnout of voters, the official commented that it was a total

success beyond expectations. "The response of the people was remarkable which indicates the people's support of HH the Amir's wise policy," he said.

Sheikh Mousharak, commented that despite the hot weather people turned out in large numbers to cast their votes.

The official hoped that the council will be successful in solving all those problems related in sports. He commented that the previous National Assembly did not extend support or solve sports problems, and hoped the council will find

solutions for setting up the Olympic multi-purpose sports centre and swimming pool.

Sheikh Mousharak who praised the patriotic feeling of the Kuwaiti people stated that this council will include among its members, sports enthusiasts who have had "hands-on" experience in the various fields of sports activities.

Ali Al Arbaud, a municipality employee, said that this Interim Council attested the great confidence placed in HH the Amir's policy for Kuwait. He added that despite the unsuitable

timing of the election in the heat of June, voter response was very good.

Mohamed al Omairi, a member of Kuwait's Boxing Federation, said that forming the council will obviate any misleading trend that intends to disunite the Kuwaiti people.

Omairi added that winners and losers in the elections will stand together to serve their country.

Naji Al Ali, a businessman said that the turnout was very encouraging and proved the strong bonds among Kuwaiti

citizens. Ali added that voters were seen going in big numbers to cast their ballot.

On June 10, Kuwaitis went to polling stations located in elementary schools to vote for their representatives at the National Council. The four-year council is to review past parliamentary experience, according to the Amiri decree issued on April 23. The Interior Ministry announced that 38,689 Kuwaitis cast their votes in the 25 constituencies, the figure constitutes 62.76 percent of the total number of registered voters of 62,123.

**KU to admit 3,200:** Kuwait University will intake 3,200 students for the next academic year of 1990-91 of which 300 seats will be allocated for the second course, dean of admission and registration department Dr Sabah Qadoumi said Wednesday.

He told a press conference that the university's deanship has endorsed the upcoming five-year plan and recommendations of faculties and resolutions of the university's council.

He added that high schools graduates who would not be enrolled in the university will find other opportunities in the public authority for applied education and training. (Kuna)

**Medal for Saqr:** President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt granted the republic's first class medal to chairman of Kuwait's Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdel Aziz Al Saqr in his capacity as board chairman of the Kuwaiti popular committee for fund-raising that built a universal educational Islamic centre in Egypt.

An official at the Egyptian embassy here told Kuna that President Mubarak also decided to grant medal of accomplishments of the first class to the committee's treasurer Yousef Al Flaij and members of the centre's board of trustees Muhammed Al Khorafi and Ahmad Al Nist. (Kuna)

**GDR exchange memo:** Head of the information office at the Foreign Ministry Suleiman Al Menayee yesterday met with East German Charge d'Affaires in Kuwait Frank Sahling.

Menayee told Kuna that Sahling handed him a memo, which included details and the way to exchange the East German Mark into the Deutsche mark, according to the deal concluded recently between Bonn and East Berlin.

He said that owners of the East German mark who reside outside the GDR can submit their applications of exchange to the financial institutions, in which they keep their accounts in East Germany, no later than July 17.

The exchange process will begin July 1.

Menayee indicated that the exchange form can be obtained either from financial institutions in the GDR or from the Deutsche Bundesbank of West Germany.

He said that in some exceptional cases, the exchange period will be extended until July 30.

The GDR embassy in Kuwait has expressed readiness to render advice to owners of the East German mark on the measures to be followed in the exchange process. (Kuna)

**Sixth education meet:** Kuwait will next September host the sixth regional consultative meeting on education for development in the Arab countries.

The director of the Unesco regional department for co-ordination Abdul Qader Al Attash met in this respect with Tunisian State Minister for Education Mongi Bousma.

On the other hand, the 5th conference of the Arab Education and Economic Planning Ministers will be held in Cairo on November 24-27.

The conference agenda focuses on the implementation of the international conference documents on "Education for all" which was held in Thailand last March. (Kuna)

**Cable from Khalifa:** The Prime Minister of Bahrain Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla on the occasion of forming the new Kuwaiti government.

Sheikh Khalifa expressed sincere congratulations for the confidence extended by HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad to Sheikh Saad for "reforming of the government to command Kuwait toward greater progress, flourishing prosperity and development," the Gulf News Agency GNA said.

He wished success to the new government in serving the Kuwaiti people and the support of Arab and Islamic causes. (Kuna)

**Gulf Air contract:** Gulf Air said yesterday it had awarded a BD4.89 million (\$1.3 million) construction contract for a new headquarters to the Bahrain-based joint-venture Jalal Costain WLL.

The building, due to be completed in two years, will be financed by a BD5.5 million (\$14.6 million) loan from the Bahrain government, Gulf Air said in a statement.

The airline is planning to spend more than one billion dollars on 18 new aircraft over the next five years. Its net 1989 profit increased elevenfold to 27.7 million dinars (\$73.6 million).

Gulf Air is owned by the governments of Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and Abu Dhabi. (Reuter)

**UAE-Britain commission:** The 13th meeting for the UAE-British Joint Commission will be convened in the British capital July 9 to discuss the latest developments in the Gulf region and peace steps between Iran and Iraq.

The three-day meeting will be co-chaired by UAE State Minister for Foreign Affairs Rashed Abdullah Al Nuaimi and British Minister of State at the Foreign Office William Walgrave.

The commission will also discuss economic and trade relations between the two countries and co-operation in fields of culture, information and education.

The last meeting was convened in Abu Dhabi in 1988.

A meeting will be held next week for various UAE ministries to study issues that will be presented at the joint commission. (Kuna)

**Mellor in Manama:** British Secretary of State for International Affairs, David Mellor arrived here last night on a several-day official visit during which he will hold talks with Bahraini officials.

Mellor's talks with Bahraini officials would tackle means of boosting bilateral relations in the security fields and issues of mutual interest, the Gulf News Agency said. (Kuna)

## Cabinet

(Continued from Page 1)

**research.**

He has published 40 papers and several books, including a dictionary of legal terms in three languages: English, Arabic and French. The dictionary contains 75,000 legal terms and took six years to compile.

The newly appointed Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Jaber Al Abdulla Al Jaber Al Sabah said he will "exert efforts to fulfil the aspirations of the people to maintain pros-

perity of the country."

He said: "Together with the Kuwaiti people, we will preserve the unity and security of the country."

Sheikh Jaber, the eldest son of Sheikh Abdullah, the special adviser to HH the Amir, was the governor of Ahmadi before becoming the Capital Governor in 1988.

The last cabinet reshuffle took place in 1988.

## Agriculture ministry a necessity: Noun

**HEAD** of Agricultural Cooperative Societies Union, Barrak Nasir Al Nour has stressed on the importance of establishing a ministry of agriculture taking the responsibilities of agricultural affairs and fish resources in the country. He said that establishing the ministry is necessary in order to enhance this sector and develop it for the future.

He pointed out that international events have proved that countries having a strong agricultural sector are economically stable. He indicated that agriculture has increased in importance internationally due to the importance of ensuring food security.

Noun stressed that farmers, producers and officials in the agricultural sector exerted great efforts in creating comprehensive agricultural prosperity in the country. He stated that alterations made in the agricultural sector were fast and constantly rising. The number of farms and farmers have doubled several times. He indicated that currently high agricultural technology is being applied to improve productivity.

## Action Line

I AM an Indian housemaid and have been working in Kuwait since 1983. In 1988, I gave my passport and Civil ID to my sponsor for renewal but he did not renew my residence and did not return my passport. I tried to contact him but he does not give me a proper reply and refuses to meet me. I have complained to the police station but no action has been taken. As last resort, I approached my embassy and was given a letter to the police station. Please advise what can be done.

**A. Michael** OUR lawyer Khaled Taher says that the only way open now is to file a case against your sponsor asking for your passport. You can either ask for a cancellation of residence and air ticket to leave the country or ask for a release if you have a new sponsor.

MY WIFE came here some months ago to work as a housemaid with a Kuwaiti family. We married in 1988. We have marriage documents, authenticated by the relevant authorities. However, her passport says she is "single"; she has also not used my surname because she got the passport before our marriage. Her employer does not know she is married. She is afraid to tell the truth fearing her employer might get angry and send her back to our country.

I would like to know if:

1) I have the right to visit my wife and inform her employer that we are husband and wife?

2) Does her employer have the right to prohibit me visiting my wife?

3) If my employer refuses my request to visit her during my off days, do I have the right to demand her day off?

4) Is there a law in Kuwait that a maid of an employed maid is strictly prohibited to visit her wife?

5) Can my employer not grant my requests mentioned above do I have the right to get help? What legal action can't take? Please advise.

**O. Castro** 6) YOU CAN ask the person of your husband to let you visit your wife without their permission.

2. Mr. Khaled Taher told us that your employer has the right to prohibit you from visiting your wife as she is working as a domestic helper in their home. You can't force her employer to allow you to visit her. If you insist, Mr. Taher, said he has the right to take the matter to the police.

3. You do not have the right to demand a day off. This is a matter between the employer and employee (maid) and must be dealt by your wife, who must talk to the employer and seek his permission.

4. There is no such law. But there is a law that "organizes relationship between people living in Kuwait". As we said before, you are not entitled to tell her employer to do anything. So, our legislation allows them to place where you can get help. If you want to live with your wife, the best thing would be to have her give up her job so that she can join you.

I WOULD like to inquire about the correct procedure for cancelling a visa. Can this be done before its expiry? My employer says this can be done on the day of expiry?

If my contract expires on July 15, 1990, and my visa expires on the 21st of the same month, can I not leave Kuwait before the expiry date of my visa? I wish to leave as soon as possible. Please give me your honest reply.

**T.S.** A VISA can be cancelled before its expiry. There is no problem in cancelling visas. The expiry date is given so that the holder of a visa is given legal sanction to reside in this country. If you want to cancel the visa during the period you are permitted to stay, you can do so. But it is essential to complete the contract to avoid any complications.

If the contract limits you to stay until July 21, then you must do so; if it doesn't, you can ask for a cancellation, depending on the type of visa you are holding.

I AM an Indian working in Kuwait since 1986. I got a driver's license. I want to change my name and would like to amend my name in the documents. Kindly let me know the procedure after changing the name in the passport.

**H. Qurbanibain** AFTER the necessary amendment has been made by your embassy, take the documents and apply for an amendment at the immigration department. Take a certificate of name change, duly endorsed, from your embassy so that you can prove that you have changed your name. The immigration department will guide you further on what should be done to complete the procedure.

## From the courts

### Life sentence for Firdous Rambo

THE Court of Appeal in its session with presiding Judge Kazem Al Mazidi committed Farraj Al Nasir to life in prison for killing a citizen.

The accused had been nicknamed "Firdous Rambo" by the media in the case which stemmed from the accused holding his family members as hostages in his residence at Firdous.

At the time of the incident, the accused who was working at the Ministry of Communications had shot at a colleague and escaped to his residence where he kept police at bay by threatening to kill his family if they tried to apprehend him.

During the attempt by the police to apprehend the suspect, he opened fire on security forces and a Kuwaiti citizen who was around the premises was caught a bullet which killed him instantly.

**Longer sentence for car theft:** The Criminal Court convicted a man who is presently serving sentence for stealing cars during 1989 to a further jail term for committing similar acts which were not investigated during the first trial.

The court was told that the convict had stolen several vehicles belonging to female nurses from the Ministry of Health.

During investigations the convict confessed that he had broken into the cars by using a metal wire. He said that he also used bank automat cards and withdrew amounts from these accounts. He said all the money he obtained was used in building his new house.

**Woman hashish trader caught:**

Detectives of the Criminal Investigation Department apprehended an Arab woman for trading in hashish.

The woman was for sometime suspected of dealing in drugs and her apartment was kept under

surveillance. On positive proof detectives raided her premises and caught the suspect red-handed in the act of selling hashish. The suspect identified as S. S. told the police that she had obtained the drugs through a taxi driver. Security police successfully apprehended the accomplice.

Further investigations are in progress.

**Failed suicide bid:** Security forces are investigating the case of a failed suicide attempt by a 17-year-old Kuwaiti girl identified as M. G.

Police sources said that the girl had taken an overdose of sleeping tablets with the intention of terminating her life. However, prompt action in transferring her to the hospital and skilled medical attention saved her life.

**Death of newborn:** A Kuwaiti citizen identified as R. K. filed a complaint with Roqa Police Station claiming that his wife had caused the death of their new born baby girl.

Investigations into the case are under progress.

**Man acquitted:** The Criminal Court acquitted a man charged with threatening and assaulting a police officer, because of a lack of positive identification. The court was told that the officer was on duty at the Arms Market when he spotted the suspect who was veiled at the time, entering a shop selling hunting guns. The officer said that when the accused left the shop he ordered him to stop and produce his ID. However, the officer was held up at gun point by another accomplice who took the officer's gun and his car keys and drove away in the car of the official.

The officer, however, borrowed the keys of the shop owner and gave chase, but was unsuccessful in apprehending the suspects. The man was arrested by other officers later.

### Male student tops arts exams

By Qassem Nael

FOR the first time in several years, a male student won the top place of the Arts Section of the Higher Secondary Certificate Examination. Saleh Salem Al Dafri broke a total monopoly by girls over the first 10 positions of the Arts section to win the top place securing 98.8 per cent marks. But he was followed by

girls in the rest of the top positions. The results were announced late night. The Ministry of Education said that 7,786 students appeared for the examination and 5,226 of them passed with a passing rate of 65.4 per cent. This year's passing rate is much more than the 53 per cent of last year. The Science Section results are expected by midnight (Friday).



Hajji received at Mercedes

Brigadier Abdul Hameed Hajji Abdul Raheem, general director of the General Traffic Department paid a visit to Abdul Rahman Al Bisher and Zaid Al Kazemi Company (Mercedes).

He was received by Bisher Abdul Rahman Al Bisher and a number of company directors. Brigadier Hajji commanded the company staff for their positive participations and activities during the celebration of the Seventh Unified Traffic Week for GCC states. He also praised the highly distinguished role of the company in the field of traffic awareness.

He presented honour certificates to a number of company personnel.

# ARAB TIMES

**Thought for today**

BETTER to wear out than rust out — Richard Cumberland, English philosopher (1631-1718).

## Priest goal materialising

# Apartheid on the way out

LONDON, (Reuter): Three years ago Archbishop Trevor Huddleston said he was determined to see the end of apartheid before he died.

Now at 77 and after almost half a century of fighting the system, which he watched being established while serving as parish priest of a Johannesburg black township in the 1940s and 50s, he thinks the goal is in sight.

"It won't take 10 years — it'll happen in four — either that or there'll be a bloody revolution," Huddleston, former Anglican Bishop in Tanzania and Archbishop of the Indian Ocean, told Reuters.

"South African President F. W. de Klerk is more anxious than anybody to have a very quick negotiated settlement leading to a constitutional set up which will be acceptable to all parties," said Huddleston, who as a "prohibited immigrant" has been unable to return to South Africa in 34 years.

The young black population is impatient for change, he said.

"And if he (De Klerk) doesn't do it quickly his right wing is going to create mayhem ... he knows that."

### Campaigning

Although largely retired from his clerical duties, Huddleston is still campaigning relentlessly.

He is president of the British Anti-Apartheid Movement and chairman of the International Defence and Aid Fund, which defends political prisoners in South Africa. He heads the British-Tanzania Society, the National Peace Council and several other organisations.

He made the headlines last year after being jeered by shareholders of Switzerland's largest bank UBS, when he told their meeting they should stop supporting the South African regime by buying its gold and lending it money.

He is in close touch with the African National Congress (ANC), whose leaders he knew well in Johannesburg. He travels frequently to the black front line states to speak, minister and campaign — "I don't separate religion and politics. There's no way you can," he said.

Now based in London in a modest flat belonging to St. James' Church in the middle of London's busy West End, Huddleston is constantly nagging the British and European governments to enforce and maintain economic sanctions against Pretoria.

"The only effective way (of ending apartheid), if it is to be non-violent, is mandatory sanctions," he tells them.

He has put his case to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher repeatedly. "They (the British government) are just immovable," he sighed.

Britain relaxed its voluntary sanctions in February this year, saying it acknowledged reforms had begun.

Huddleston insists it was wrong to do so.

"Not a single (fundamental) apartheid law has yet been repealed. The whole of the apartheid structure is still in place," he said.

He recounted his last meeting with Thatcher a few years ago when she told him sanctions did not work. He pointed out that she had imposed them immediately on Argentina during the Falklands conflict and she retorted that it was a war situation.

### Sanctions

"I said is this not a war situation? There are 100,000 troops in Namibia and South Africa seems to feel it is free to bomb and attack front line states and villages," he said, adding that the discussion got no further.

He has met consecutive British foreign ministers and has been to Dublin several times recently to lobby European Economic Community (EEC) ministers to keep their sanctions in place.

The crunch comes when EEC heads of state discuss the issue at their Dublin summit on June 25-26, Huddleston said, breaking off to answer a call from Commonwealth Secretary-General Sonny Ramphal who wanted to know of ANC leader Nelson Mandela's plans when he comes to London in July.

Huddleston was leaving for Spain on Thursday to advise the government — at its invitation — on South Africa and sanctions ahead of the EEC meeting.

A book on Huddleston's life, which he calls a picture book not a biography — he has refused to allow a biography to be written until after he is dead — was published on Wednesday.

It is based on a film about him called *Makhailipole*. Zulu for the downless one, but he is evasive about who gave him the name, saying only that it comes from a song written about him, sung by black schoolchildren as a farewell when he left South Africa in 1956.

Huddleston looks slightly shrunk in his baggy suit, faded purple shirt and clerical collar, his distinctive sharp features softened by age.

His room is crammed with books on fellow anti-apartheid campaigners, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and former Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere alongside T. S. Eliot's poems and well thumbed Bibles. A recent picture of Mandela and an African crucifix adorn the walls.

Huddleston has written only one book, "Naught For Your Comfort," published in 1956, is an angry and bitter attack on apartheid's system of laws which he saw foster poverty, homelessness, unemployment and crime in Sophiatown, now part of the lack of Soweto.

"I just had to write it ... nobody had actually written about what apartheid is like from first hand experience," he said.

A second phone call interrupted, bringing news that the European Parliament had just voted by 177 to 47 in favour of a resolution to maintain sanctions.

"That's marvellous," said Huddleston, grinning broadly.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

1532 — England's King Henry VIII and France's King Francis I sign secret alliance against Holy Roman Emperor Charles V.

1650 — Peace treaty of Nuremberg is signed between Holy Roman Empire and Sweden.

1672 — Holy Roman Empire and Brandenburg sign alliance to halt extension of French power.

1722 — England's Queen Anne orders French people in Nova Scotia to take oath of allegiance to her government within one year or leave.

1724 — Treaty of Constantinople between Russia and Turkey is signed, directed against Persia to secure Erivan for the Turks.

1757 — British under Robert Clive take Plassey, after the Nawab breaks alliance, and recover Calcutta in India.

1760 — Prussian army at Landshut in Bavaria guarding passes into Silesia, suffers crushing defeat.

1848 — "June Days" begin in France when Gen. Louis Cavaignac suppresses Paris workers in effort to close workshops and kills thousands.

1886 — Bonaparte and Orleans families are banished from France.

1934 — Saudi Arabia and Yemen sign peace treaty after six-week war.

1952 — US Air Force bombs hydroelectric plants in North Korea.

1956 — Col Gamal Abdel Nasser is elected president of Egypt.

1970 — Japanese students clash with police in Tokyo in huge demonstration against continuing US-Japan security pact.

1977 — US House of Representatives passes \$5.7 billion foreign aid appropriations bill with ban on any assistance to Cuba, Angola or Mozambique.

1989 — Muslim rebels fire 24 rockets into Kabul, Afghanistan, killing at least four people.

# PLO vital to peace process

## Suspension of talks negates results

WASHINGTON, (Agencies): The talks between the United States and the PLO, conducted in virtual secrecy for 18 months, broke the ice for both sides after 25 years of mistrust.

They showed Americans that the PLO was vital to the success of Arab-Israeli peace talks, and got Palestinians to accept negotiations with their arch-enemy, Israel.

But the results were so tentative that fragile suspension of the talks may have badly damaged the fruit of the dialogue.

"We were just starting to drive the demons out of each other's eyes," said Richard Murphy, who was the leading Mideast official in former president Ronald Reagan's administration.

In one of his last acts before leaving office, Reagan authorised talks with the PLO, overturning a 13-year ban on direct contacts with the organisation. The decision was made after PLO chief Yasser Arafat agreed to US conditions by renouncing terrorism and accepting Israel's right to exist.

For Palestinians, long shunned in the West as terrorists bent on the destruction of Israel, the talks provided a modicum of legitimacy.

And it showed Palestinians that US foreign policy, long allied with Israel, was not warped by its support for the Jewish state. Murphy said in an interview.

"On balance, we believe that these exchanges contributed to progress in the peace process," said President George Bush in announcing his decision. "I think things are better because we've had the dialogue."

### Arranging

Indeed, US officials said last summer that they were closer than ever to arranging talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

The plan advanced by Secretary of State James Baker would have brought together Israeli officials and Palestinians whose participation was approved by the PLO. The talks, to be held in Cairo, would have set up elections for representatives among the 1.7 million Palestinians under Israeli occupation.

For the mainstream of the PLO — which is composed of eight factions, some of them radically opposed to the dialogue with Israel — the acceptance of even indirect talks with Israel was a major concession.

"We lose sight of the fact that Arafat did something we predicted no Palestinian would do," Bush said.

But Israel, refusing to negotiate with the PLO as it views a terrorist organisation, balked at accepting some of the proposed Palestinian negotiators because of their anti-Israel activity.

The United States, attempting to cajole Israel into the peace talks, changed tactics last summer and appealed for help to Egypt — the only Arab country which has made peace with Israel.

Thus, Cairo became the main channel for US contacts with the PLO and the direct talks in Tunis were relegated to secondary importance.

From periodic meetings with a PLO delegation, the dialogue turned into what the State Department described as "contacts" between US Ambassador Robert Pelletreau and a PLO official named Hakan Balaoui.

Balaoui and the PLO liked and respected Pelletreau, a fluent Arabic speaker, but they wanted more.

Under instruments from Arafat, who was being subjected to growing pressure from radicals, Balaoui demanded that the United States force Israel to make concessions.

The low-level dialogue was further strained when the United States blocked PLO attempts to join several UN organisations as an independent state named Palestine. The United States did not recognise the PLO's self-proclaimed state, saying such a move would destroy all hope of Israel coming to the negotiating table.

Besides advancing the peace process, the other US objective in the dialogue was to bring about an end to PLO terrorism. Pelletreau would often bring up suspected terrorist incidents with Balaoui, and ask for explanations.

And the United States cited results.

The State Department reported to Congress what 30 border and rocket attacks were launched by Palestinian groups against Israel since December 1988; there was no evidence any were authorised by the PLO executive committee.

But ultimately, the suspension of the dialogue was prompted by the very obstacle that prevented direct talks with the PLO since its inception in 1964 — terrorism.

Bush cited the PLO's failure to discipline Abul Abbas, a member of the organisation's executive committee, who sent sea-borne raiders to attack Israel's coast on May 30 but was foiled by Israeli troops.

The hardline coalition is devoted to cracking down on the 30-month-old Palestinian uprising and increasing settlement of Jews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Now Israeli leaders are working to shift the focus from the uprising to the larger conflict with Arab states, trying to calm talks of another Middle East war and making modest gestures to Palestinians in the territories.

They have reopened the first of the universities and colleges closed by the army because of unrest and agreed to receive a United Nations envoy investigating widely condemned tactics to quash the revolt.

But these are hardly enough for Palestinians, the United States and even some leaders of the influential American Jewish community who are echoing the views of a US administration increasingly at odds with Israel.

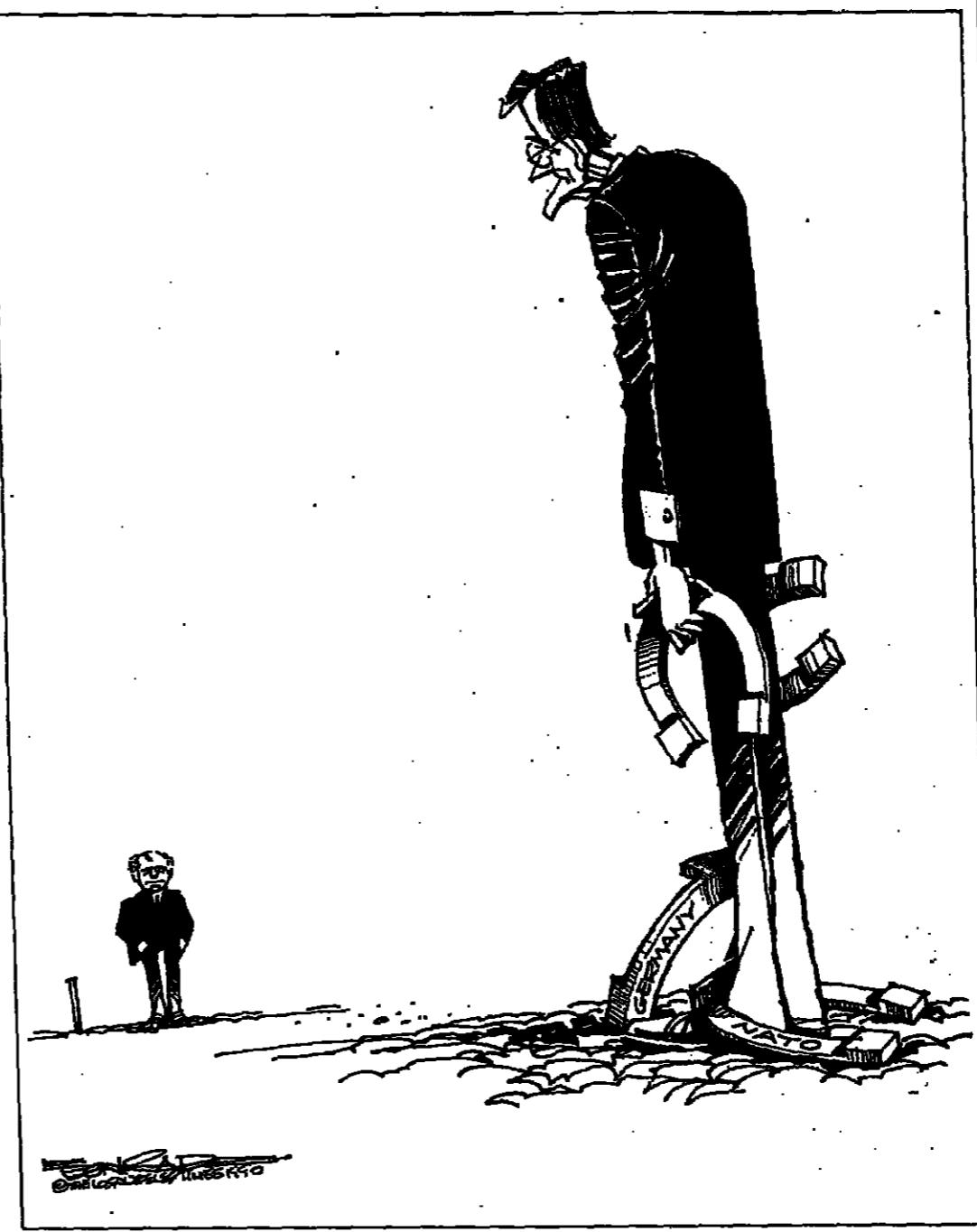
Seymour Reich, chairman of the conference of presidents of major American Jewish organisations, met State Department officials on Wednesday who told him the next move was up to Israel.

"I think they probably have a sense because they have done what Israel has asked them to do ... that Israel will now take the initiative in some direction," said Reich, known to the Americans as a conduit to Shamer.

The United States has yet to use aid to Israel, biggest in the world at \$3 billion a year, as a lever against the Jewish state.

Officials believe Bush himself may be behind demands for aid cuts by Senator Robert Dole, Republican leader in the Senate, where the lobby for Israel has clout in US policy-making.

"After using an iron fist against the PLO, the Americans will feel themselves free — perhaps even



gross, Bush said he was cutting the dialogue until Arafat condemned the raid and disciplined its perpetrators.

"This is formally the last nail in the coffin of the last chapter of Middle East peacemaking," said William Quandt, an analyst with Brookings Institution.

"It will strengthen militants on all sides. This is an invitation to more terrorism," he said. "We're going to ignore it," he added.

**Pressured**

"At any time the PLO is prepared to take the necessary steps, we are prepared promptly to renew the dialogue," he said at a news conference during a visit to Alabama. "In the meantime we would hope and expect that the peace process would proceed as intended."

But an Arab diplomat in Washington said a resumption in the US-PLO dialogue would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, even if the PLO met Bush's conditions.

"We will need a reassessment of the whole Middle East peace process," he said.

Quandt said he believed the Abbas raid was calculated to produce a cutoff in the dialogue and a return by the PLO from the olive branch to the gun.

The Arab League's Ambassador in Washington, Clovis Maksoud, said the decision would increase instability in the Middle East and raise the risks of war.

"It signals a penalty to Arab moderation, especially Palestinian moderation, and rewards Israeli intrusiveness."

Although contacts with the PLO on the American side were limited to the Ambassador in Tunis, Robert Pelletreau, the dialogue quickly became central to a concerted push by Secretary of State James Baker to get Israelis and Palestinians from the occupied territories around the bargaining table.

But Israel and its supporters continued to snipe at the dialogue, while the lack of visible diplomatic gains weakened Arafat and moderate forces within the PLO.

When Israel's national unity government fell in March in disagreement over the Baker initiative, it was the signal for radicals on all sides to reassess themselves.

Since then, Shamer has put together the most right-wing government in Israeli history while on the Arab side Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has emerged as a new force and repeatedly threatened the Jewish state with mass destruction.

What lay ahead, another Middle East diplomat predicted was a radicalisation of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories with Islamic fundamentalists coming more and more to the fore, aggressive Israeli actions to quell unrest and growing dangers of war.

**Pyongyang's latest budget**

Pyongyang's latest state budget officially puts aside 12 percent of GNP for defence. Seoul analysts believe the real figure is about 24 percent.

While South Korea earmarks only five percent of its GNP for defence, a 1989 white paper estimated that at current spending levels Seoul could dispense with US military support by 1996.

Pyongyang now faces demands from trading partners in the former communist bloc to pay for imports in hard currency. It cannot raise foreign currency loans after defaulting on previous debt repayments.

Without detente to bring a peace dividend, there appears to be little relief in sight for North Korea's beleaguered economy.

North Korea watchers in Seoul and Tokyo agree Pyongyang is unlikely to modify its policies until Kim, just triumphantly elected to a new four-year presidential term, quits the scene.

"Till the old man dies, there'll only be minimal change," said a senior Asian diplomat in Tokyo once posed in Pyongyang.

"They are nowhere, the economy's in a shambles, the South is forging ahead, but they can't reverse anything big, either domestically or abroad, we cannot expect major movement while Kim's still on the scene," he said.

In the meantime, as North Korea's neighbours are well aware, the potential for a flare-up on the peninsula is ever present.

This week Japanese parliamentarians issued another warning over the fact that Pyongyang, industry, refuses to agree to international safeguards.

Also this week, in Seoul, a woman who says Korean Air Lines planes in 1987, killing all 115 aboard, said that if Pyongyang felt cornered it could carry out more terror attacks, or even go to war again.

"North Korean people have sacrificed themselves with a view to reunification of the fath-

er in the future, if they see the possibility is rather slim,

"... if they see the possibility is rather slim,

"... if they see the possibility is rather slim,

"... if they see the possibility is rather slim,

"... if they see the possibility is rather slim,

"... if they see the possibility is rather slim,

"... if they

## MIDEAST

**US fears Iraq on chemical weapons**

PARIS, June 22, (Reuter): A senior US official said yesterday that Washington was now more concerned about Iraq than Libya in chemical arms proliferation.

"Iraq now surpasses Libya in our concerns because Iraq has a much bigger production base than Libya and has demonstrated that it can make these weapons and use them," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

He was speaking to journalists after a meeting of the "Australia group" of Western countries formed in 1985 to halt the spread of chemical weapons.

"What's more," the official added, "is that Iraq's President (Saddam Hussein) has threatened to use them."

He was referring to a running dispute between Washington and Baghdad which followed a threat by the Iraqi leader in April to "burn half of Israel" with chemical weapons if it attacked Iraq.

The official said Washington believed Libya was "probably engaged in limited production" of chemical weapons at its plant at Rabta, south of Tripoli, despite a fire there in March which he said "was not a significantly damaging event."

Libya denies the plant makes weapons and says it produces pharmaceutical products.

The US official said a new worry was the spread of biological weapons for which the United States believed development programmes now existed in about 10 countries.

He said the figures had doubled in four years, and that Washington believed those countries which recently entered the biological warfare programme in the Middle East.

"This is also of particular concern because the use of chemical and biological weapons in the Middle East is not inconceivable," he added.

The Australia group, made up of 20 countries, meets behind closed doors every six months, mostly to exchange technical information about how to monitor the export of chemical agents used in the manufacture of chemical weapons.

■ ■ ■ Production of biological weapons has expanded in the past three to four years, mainly in the Middle East, posing a new threat in a region where the risks of war are high, a senior US official said yesterday.

The official, speaking on condition he not be identified by name, also said the notorious Rabta plant in Libya was likely still engaged in limited production of chemical weapons.

He refused to elaborate on rumour that Libya was building a second chemical weapons plant.

The official said mounting evidence about expanding biological weapons programmes prompted the 20-nation Australia group to expand its mission to include biological arms.

The US official said the delegates, who meet every six months, also discussed controlling shipments of "precursor" chemicals used in building chemical weapons.

The official refused to name countries reportedly engaged in production of biological weapons, which are based on bacteria, viruses and other living organisms. But he said they are mainly nations which already have sophisticated chemical and ballistic weapons programmes.

"In some cases, we know countries have a biological weapons programme, but we're not sure what they're growing," he said.

Iraq has more kinds of chemical weapons, has used them in the Iran-Iraq war and threatened to use them against Israel, the official noted.

The Rabta plant in Libya, damaged in a fire several months ago, is "probably engaged in limited production" of chemical weapons the official said. "I think there is a fair consensus among members of the (Australia) group that it was not significantly damaged, and the probability the event was staged is very high," he said.

Libya denies repeated claims, including court testimony by the West German manufacturers of the plant, that the plant is used to manufacture chemical arms. Libya says the plant is used to make pharmaceuticals.

**Rabin calls for a swift vote to end leadership struggle in Labour Party**

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 22, (Reuter): Former defence minister Yitzhak Rabin called today for a swift vote to end a leadership struggle in the Labour Party so it could challenge Israel's new hardline government.

"We must bring order to our house and reach a swift decision regarding the leadership," Rabin told Israel radio.

The six-year truce between Rabin and present party chairman Shimon Peres, both former prime ministers, has fallen

apart over recent weeks in a bitter exchange of blame for Labour's failure to lead Israel to peace talks with Palestinians.

Peres accused Rabin of deluding himself about the chances of peace talks under a unity government with the rightist Likud party, while Rabin derided Peres's vision of a pro-peace coalition with religious parties.

Peres failed to form a government in April after bringing down a left-right coalition with Likud over Prime Minister

Yitzhak Shamir's refusal to join Labour in accepting US proposals for Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo.

"Had he succeeded I suppose he would have, and rightly so, claimed all the credit," Rabin said of Peres. "It follows that whoever claims all the credit must bear all the responsibility for failure."

The two men face a showdown at a Labour meeting yesterday when the party will decide whether to advance elections

**Israeli colonel testifies beating Palestinians was norm**

TEL AVIV, June 22, (AP): An Israeli colonel accused of ordering soldiers to break the limbs of Palestinians testified today that beatings was "part of the accepted norm in that period."

Testifying in his own defence, Col. Yehuda Meir told three military judges that his superiors did not question the beatings because "there was nothing special in it ... there was nothing out of the ordinary."

Meir testified yesterday that former defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin gave orders in January 1988 to break the bones of Palestinian inciters as punishment.

Military prosecutors say soldiers acting on Meir's orders arrested about 21 Palestinians in two West Bank villages

in January 1988, took them into nearby fields and beat the bound and gagged detainees with rifles and clubs.

At least 12 Palestinians from the villages of Hawara and Beita were reported to have had their limbs broken in the two incidents.

Israeli military authorities introduced beatings as a method to deter Arab demonstrators a month after the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule began in December 1987.

Meir admitted ordering beatings but said he now feels abandoned by Rabin and by Maj. Gen. Amram Mitzna, the former military commander of the West Bank and Meir's former com-

manding officer.

"I feel like they abandoned me and threw me to the dogs," Meir told the judges. He began to cry minutes later and asked for a recess.

Mitzna testified last month that beatings were not to be administered as punishment, but were solely a means to disperse protesters and control detainees. He was a prosecution witness.

Meir resumed his testimony after a 30-minute break, again saying he was disappointed that Rabin and Mitzna did not support him.

Meir accused his superior officers of "double bookkeeping." He said they spoke "in two different directions with

two different voices" — one for "those who have to do the work" and the other for the news media, the US government, the legal system and left-wing

Israeli public officials.

■ ■ ■ Police imposed a curfew today on occupied Jerusalem's Silwan quarter in a rare move after a Palestinian youth was shot to death during clashes with police, officials said.

Paramilitary border police fired tear-gas and live ammunition to disperse rioters who blocked roads and threw stones in the second violent demonstration since a similar death there Wednesday, Arab witnesses said.

Officials at occupied east Jerusalem's Mukassed hospital said police shot Zuhri Ibrahim Shweiki, 17, in the head. They also reported that they treated three people for tear-gas inhalation and one for a cut on his forehead. (AP)

■ ■ ■ A special UN envoy, Jean-Claude Aimé, arrived in Israel yesterday for an investigative visit to the occupied territories.

"I'm here on the instructions of the (UN) secretary-general to discuss the situation in the occupied territories," Aimé said at the Ben-Gurion airport near Tel Aviv.



File picture from May 30 showing Israeli soldiers next to a boat used by commandos from the Palestine Liberation Front faction in a foiled raid on the Israeli coast. Troops killed gunmen and captured 12 in the two-pronged assault. (Reuter wirephoto)



President George Bush announcing the suspension of dialogue with the PLO at a press conference on June 20 at the Marshall Space Flight Centre in Huntsville. (Reuter wirephoto)

**Arabs condemn US for suspending talks****Severe blow to peace in Middle East**

NICOSIA, Cyprus, June 22, (AP): Arabs yesterday branded the US suspension of talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization as support for Israel's new hard-line government and said the move was a severe blow to peace efforts in the Middle East.

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat's right-hand man, Salah Khalaf, said Washington's freeze on the 18-month-old talks because Arafat refused to condemn an abortive May 30 commando attack on Israel will encourage Israeli intransigence. Kuwait's Al Qabas daily reported.

He warned that the American move "will help escalate extremism in the Middle East," and called on Arab states to react quickly.

Khalaf said: "The American move will help escalate extremism in the Middle East. The American administration should be held responsible for its dire consequences."

The United States agreed to the dialogue in December 1988, ending a 13-year boycott of talks with the PLO, after Arafat renounced terrorism and recognized Israel.

In Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir urged the United States to cut off its dialogue with the PLO permanently. Newspapers there said even suspension of the talks could mean more American pressure on Israel to forge a new peace strategy.

The governments of Jordan and Egypt both issued statements regretting the US move.

Jordan's information minister, Ibrahim Zekende, said: "Benefiting is setback for regional peace efforts and forms an obstacle for the PLO's clear peace course in the Middle East."

"The Jordanian government hopes the American administration will quickly reconsider its decision since there is no other substitute for talks with Palestinians except through the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians," Zekende told the Associated Press.

In occupied Jerusalem, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, celebrating a US decision to halt talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, said Israel knew the PLO best and would never talk peace with its members.

"The PLO is not a partner to peace and we won't talk to them in all eternity, their objective is to destroy Israel," Shamir told a gathering of the international Keren Hayesod Jewish Organisation.

Egypt, which has been struggling for months to get Israelis and Palestinians together to talk peace, regretted on Thursday a US decision to halt an 18-month-old dialogue with the PLO.

A presidential statement also accused Israel's hardline policies of being the main obstacle to peace.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Wednesday he respects President Bush's decision to end diplomatic contact with the PLO, but he said the United Nations will continue such a dialogue to achieve peace.

"While he respects decisions of government ... the secretary-general would like to emphasize that the United Nations is an organisation committed to the furthering of peace through dialogue," Perez de Cuellar said.

Tunisia expressed its deep regret on Thursday at the suspension of the dialogue between the United States and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which had been conducted for the past 18 months in Tunis.

The British government said yesterday it was not surprised by the American decision to suspend its 18-month dialogue with the PLO.

The Foreign Office in London argued that Britain had "made clear that the PLO should have gone further in condemning the naval raid on an Israeli beach."

However, in response to a question by Kuna, a Foreign Office spokesman said that "both the Americans and the Palestinians have an essential role in maintaining the peace process if the Arab-Israeli dispute is to be resolved."

It was not immediately clear whether the threats were directed against the United States as a result of Bush's decision to suspend dialogue with the PLO.

Bush said Wednesday the dialogue was ruptured because PLO chairman Yasser Arafat did not clearly condemn an abortive raid on an Israeli beach on May 30 and punish the attack's mastermind, Mohammed Abbas, the leader of a PLO faction known as the Palestine Liberation Front.

The two men face a showdown at a Labour meeting yesterday when the party will decide whether to advance elections

**Shamir rules out fresh peace bid****Israel-US ties improve**

JERUSALEM, June 22, (UPI): Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said in an interview Friday he would not propose a new peace initiative and predicted Israeli relations with the United States would improve following the break in the US-PLO dialogue.

In an interview with the Hebrew daily *Yediot Ahronot*, Shamir said he was encouraged by President Bush's announcement Wednesday that he was suspending diplomatic contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation because it failed to talk on interim self-rule.

Shamir, opposed to ceding the occupied West Bank in any peace settlement, said the Golan Heights captured from Syria was in a different category but he did not elaborate.

Israeli nationalists claim a right to the West Bank — captured from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East war.

Asked if he regarded Baker's public appeal to call the White House as a gesture of unprecedented contempt for him and his government, Shamir said:

"I see no need to explain Baker's words. You'll have to approach him on this matter. Nor am I prepared to respond to the way in which they were said."

Shamir admitted "difficulties" in relations with Washington, Israel's closest ally and supplier of three billion dollars in aid, but said they were no more than that.

"It brings us back to the period when the United States was a partner to our position regarding the PLO: this is a terrorist organisation and one doesn't talk with it," the Israeli leader said.

Shamir, however, said he was concerned that Bush had left open the possibility of resuming contacts with the PLO if it meets US demands.

"It really worries me that the United States will retreat from the policy it adopted this week," he said.

Shamir said that in response to a letter from Bush and other American statements he was preparing a letter to the US President outlining his positions.

"I won't propose a new political initiative," he said in his first major interview since Bush's announcement.

The official refused to name

**Threat to attack US, Israel interests**

AMMAN, June 22, (AP): An Islamic group today threatened to attack Israel and American interests world-wide.

Shamir said his answer to Bush would take into consideration the US suspension of contacts with the PLO this week after 18 months of dialogue. He said the break showed Washington shared Israel's belief.

In the interview, Shamir offered no new ideas for advancing his 13-month-old proposal to let Palestinians in Israeli-occupied lands select negotiators to talk on interim self-rule.

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**Velayati to meet UN chief****De Cuellar to visit Gulf**

UNITED NATIONS, June 22, (Reuter): Iran has agreed to a meeting in Geneva during the first week of July between Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, an Iranian spokesman said.

He told Reuters this was in response to a proposal by the secretary-general that he meet the foreign ministers of both Iran and Iraq during next month's session of the economic and social council at the United Nations' European headquarters.

Iran's President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani late last month suggested Perez de Cuellar should visit the Gulf region in an effort to restart stalled Iran-Iraq peace talks.

Iran has agreed to the proposed trip by the secretary-general, for which no date has yet been set. But its response to the suggested preliminary meeting in Geneva between Perez de Cuellar and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz is not yet known.

Efforts to transform an August 1988 war ceasefire into a peace settlement remain stalled.

The ceasefire is the only element of a 1987 Security Council peace plan, contained in Resolution 598, that has so far been implemented.



# Beirut airport 'working by candlelight'

BEIRUT, June 22. (AP): The immigration officer at Beirut international airport held a passport up to the flickering candle on his desk, squinting to check the photograph of the traveller standing in the darkened terminal hall.

The airport's only functioning generator had broken down, as it often does.

Airport personnel worked by candlelight, checking in passengers with pens instead of computer terminals and inspecting bags by hand because the electronic scanning devices were out.

Pilots landed and took off without radio contact from the tower because of

the power outage, until some have the bright idea of hooking up the tower to a small generator in the terminal restaurant.

Beirut airport, the busiest in the Middle East before Lebanon's civil war erupted in 1975, still manages to function despite power cuts, shellfire, bombs and a chronic lack of electronic equipment.

The airport's radar was destroyed in air raids during Israel's 1982 invasion. Since then aircraft have landed with the aid of a radio beacon at the American University of Beirut.

Ghassan Abu Ghazali, a pilot for

Beirut-based Middle East Airways, noted: "Not having a functioning radar isn't that big a problem. You should see some of the airports in Africa. Beirut's better than some of them. It's serviceable."

Shellfire has caused considerable damage and the airport was closed down for six months last year because of fighting.

That cost MEA around \$41 million. It has survived the 15 years of warfare through a combination of astute management and dogged refusal to die.

Planes that land at night have to do so with the beachside runway lit by car

headlights. The cables for the runway lights were stolen years ago.

Abed Al Menhem Shehadeh, director-general of civil aviation, has the unenviable job of restoring the airport in Muslim west Beirut to meet international safety and technical requirements.

He said foreign airlines that once used Beirut have been approached to return. But so far none have made any commitment because of the uncertainty surrounding Lebanon's future.

MEA executive vice-president Khaled Musfi acknowledged that Beirut is no longer the Middle East's

aviation hub and is unlikely to be so again, but he reckons there is still a market out there for MEA.

Up to 2,500 travellers use the airport daily with an average of 22 flights landing or taking off. Before the war, there were more than 100 flights a day and around 50,000 passengers.

Shehadeh said he has asked the Lebanese government for 18 billion pounds (\$8 million) to refurbish Beirut airport. Given the fractious state of Lebanon's economy, he's unlikely to get it.

But even if he did, it will take more than sprucing up the dilapidated, war-

battered airport to wipe out its notoriety as a hijacker's paradise.

Five Westerners were kidnapped on the highway leading to the airport between May 22, 1983, and Jan 17, 1984. Dozens of MEA employees, most of them Christians, have been killed or kidnapped.

Washington branded the airport a terrorist haven and banned MEA and its sister cargo line, Trans-Mediterranean Airlines, from US airspace and airports after TWA jetliner was hijacked in June 1985 and a Navy diver killed at the airport, where militiamen joined the hijackers.

## Frightened aid groups pull out of Afghanistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, June 22. (AP): Afghan fundamentalists who have turned their Islamic fervour on foreign relief agencies have forced at least one humanitarian aid group to close down a large-scale reconstruction programme in war-ravaged Afghanistan.

Attacks on Western aid groups during the past several months are also threatening an ambitious \$1.2 billion UN programme to reconstruct war-devastated Afghanistan, relief workers said Thursday.

"Maybe they don't want us here any more," said Salim Forman, a project officer of Acbar, an organisation representing more than 50 aid groups, most of which are involved in rebuilding Afghanistan.

The Australian-based Shelter Now International decided to shut down 27 reconstruction projects inside Afghanistan after being attacked several times by Muslim fundamentalists shouting anti-West slogans.

"We are on the verge of pulling out all together," said Mike Heil, Shelter Now projects director.

However, Shelter Now will continue small-scale aid work in refugee camps around Peshawar until its Australian headquarters decides its fate.

Last week, two Afghan refugees opened fire on Shelter Now's director, Thor Armstrong, pumping 12 bullets into his vehicle. He received minor injuries. His young son, who was accompanying him home from a shopping trip in Peshawar, was unhurt.

Armstrong, who is American, left with his family on Wednesday for the United States, where he will run the organisation's US interests.

"It would have to change drastically inside Afghanistan before us to start again," Heil said.

After Soviet troops ended nine years of direct intervention in Afghanistan in 1989, the United Nations launched an ambitious plan to rebuild the country, devastated by 12 years of fighting.

The reconstruction programme was to pave the way for an estimated five million Afghan war refugees living in Iran and Pakistan to return to their homeland. But few have returned. Muslim insurgents, who have waged their war against Kabul's Soviet-style government from Pakistan, have degenerated into fighting warlords.

Radical fundamentalists among the guerrilla resistance have turned their fury once reserved for the Soviet Union on Western countries and foreign aid groups.

"Even the United Nations is getting the 'heeble jeebles' (nervous)," said Forman. "Seven months ago, I wouldn't have thought anything of going inside Afghanistan but now I don't know whether it's worth the risk."

Western sources said 38 members of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's fundamentalist Hezb-e-Islami, or Party of God, group were arrested after April's brutal attack on Shelter Now's facilities in the sprawling Nasir Bagh refugee camp.

A mob of 5,000, urged on by screaming Islamic clerics who charged Shelter Now workers with corrupting their women, ransacked offices, burned buildings and destroyed equipment and trucks. When the rampage was over, the mob had caused more than one million dollars damage.

Shelter Now's construction factory in Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province was also destroyed by Afghan fundamentalists and a guard was seriously hurt.

Hans Kuitert, an Acbar spokesman, said several aid groups are planning to move out of Peshawar and relocate their headquarters in Islamabad, the nation's capital.

"They will have only Afghan-managed field offices inside the camps and nearby," he said.

"It started with women's programmes but that's just the peg they were using to go after Western aid groups," Kuitert said.

Diplomatic sources say fundamentalists within the guerrilla anti-West campaign to counter what they see as a US-orchestrated attempt to put moderate resistance leaders into power.

## Rival Christians clash in E. Beirut

### France envoy mediates

BEIRUT, June 22. (AP): Rival Christians forces clashed with artillery and mortars in east Beirut early today, killing a young girl and wounding three other women, as French envoy Francois Scheer strove to mediate an end to the 4 1/2-month-old mini-war.

Police reported that the girl was killed and the women, one of them the girl's sister, wounded by mortar fire from rebel Gen. Michel Aoun's troops.

The fatalities were in the Sin El Fil neighbourhood of Beirut's Christian sector. The district is held by militiamen of Christian warlord Sami Geagea's Lebanese Forces.

The fighting died down around 4 am (0100 GMT) and police said all roads linking the disputed sectors of the 310-square-mile (800-square-kms) Christian enclave running north from Beirut were safe for civilian traffic.



Pope John Paul talks with Prince Saud Al Faisal (centre) and with Algerian Foreign Minister Ghaouzai (left) during an audience June 21. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Raid a pretext

(Continued from Page 1)

ser Arafat's renunciation of terrorism.

Unlike some radical Palestinian groups, the PLO community, issued late on Thursday, did not call for reprisals against the United States.

Washington has warned its citizens to exercise utmost caution in the region after one Palestinian group, Fatah uprising, urged Arabs to punish Americans world-wide for breaking off the dialogue.

Bush had been under pressure from Israel to end the talks with the PLO, seen by the Jewish state as dedicated to its destruction.

The pressure increased after the May 30 raid by the Palestine Liberation Front, a small faction within the PLO.

Bush demanded Arafat condemn the attack and punish the group's leader, Mohammed Abbas, as the price for continuing talks.

The PLO statement said: "The Palestinian leadership took a clear and responsible attitude towards the raid, which the US administration used as a reason to justify its decision to suspend dialogue with PLO."

"The PLO has stressed that neither it nor any of its organisa-

tions or forces were responsible for the raid."

Arafat chaired the meeting. The communiqué said the executive committee reaffirmed again its commitment to PLO "condemning terrorism in all its forms."

Charging that Washington was biased in favour of Israel, the PLO called for world help in convening an international conference on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Israel opposes any such conference, insisting on dealing only with Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The PLO statement said Bush's action would embolden the new Israeli government — the most right wing in Israel's history — of prime minister Yitzhak Shamir.

"It will push the rulers of Israel to continue their aggressive policies, crimes and massacres against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories."

The US move "... will liquidate all chances for peace, and support and encourage the aggressor and terrorist goals of the New Shamir government," it added.

## Turkey's Syriac Christians concerned

### Shocking murders

MIDYAT, Turkey, June 22. (Reuter): A spate of cold-blooded killings has struck fear into Syriac Christians living among Muslims in southeastern Turkey.

Timotheos Samuel Aktas, Metropolitan of the Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch for this rugged region of mainly Muslim but secular Turkey where Kurdish rebels are active, said five members of his flock had been killed in and around Midyat since April 21.

"We are uneasy. We are fearful. Nothing like this has happened before," he told Reuters at his 1,600-year-old walled Deyrulumur Monastery perched on top of a barren hill.

Turkish and church officials can find no clear motives for the killings, at a time when the Syriac Christian community is crumbling in its ancient heartland — mainly for political and economic reasons but also because of violence.

A Turkish official in the remote and dusty agricultural town of Midyat said he believed rebels in the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) might have been responsible for shooting dead four Christians in an effort to generate Muslim-Christian conflict.

Syriac Christian sources fear Muslim fundamentalists may have been behind the slayings, put at five by the church — a married couple and a father and son shot dead, and a man with heart problems beaten to death — in three separate attacks.

They said the victims were killed at night after

answering a knock on the door and that the same type of automatic weapon was believed to have been used in the shootings.

"For many centuries the two communities have lived in peace and mutual respect," local Governor Hayrettin Altinok told Reuters in Midyat, 1,000 km (630 miles) southeast of Ankara.

"It is possible the PKK but we don't have any evidence ... this may be part of a policy of putting Muslims and Christians into conflict," he told Reuters, adding that two people with no apparent PKK connections were being held by police.

Syriac Christians are sceptical about the involvement of the PKK, whose six-year-old insurgency has claimed nearly 2,500 lives — mainly other Kurds and Turkish troops — in an area where most of Turkey's estimated 10 million Kurdish-speakers live.

"There is nothing for the PKK to do with us ... we have seen none of them," said Aktas, whose monastery near Midyat was the site of the church's patriarchate for 650 years until 1983.

Aktas is one of 18 Metropolitans in Bishops stretching from the United States to India tending a flock totalling some 3.3 million people, also known as Jacobite Christians.

There is no evident religious tension in Midyat, where some 2,500 of the 40,000 inhabitants are Syriac Christians, but the two communities generally live in different areas.



Lebanese President Elias Hirawi (left) during surprise talks in Damascus on June 20 with Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad on fresh Vatican and French initiatives to solve the Lebanese crisis. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Tunisia wary of Algerian Islamists

TUNIS, June 22, (Reuter): Tunisia, tiptoeing towards democracy, is keeping a wary eye on neighbouring Algeria and hopes Muslim fundamentalists who won local elections there will blot their copybook, political and diplomatic sources say.

The outcome of Algeria's experiment in multiparty democracy is crucial to the future of a similar but much slower experiment in Tunisia, where the Islamic movement is the main challenge to the Democratic Constitutional Assembly (RCD) Party which has ruled the country since independence.

Comparisons are inevitable, especially as Tunisia held local elections only two days before those in which Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front won 54.3 per cent of the popular vote, almost twice as many as the ruling National Liberation Front.

In Tunisia, the unrecognised Nahda (renaissance) movement, the main Islamic group, joined legal opposition parties in a boycott of the June 11 elections, on the grounds that in the present political climate they could not be free and fair.

While Tunisian opposition leaders heaped praise on the Algerian people and government for the conduct of the elections next door, Tunisia's League for the Defence of Human Rights said those at home made no contribution to the democratic process.

Tunisian ministers have made no comment on the Islamist victory in Algeria but the secretary general of the ruling party, Abdrahem Zouari, repeated the official line that there was no place in Tunisia for a party based on religion.

The diplomats and ruling party members speaking in private, said the best prospect for the Tunisian government was to hope that the Islamic Salvation Front would run into trouble managing municipal affairs or that it would frighten secularists into forming a united front against it.

"If these people (the Salvation Front) have the same problems as others in dealing with housing and jobs, then the Tunisians won't be slow to point out that there's no magic wand," one diplomat said.

A ruling party member said one scenario doing the rounds in Tunisia was that the Algerian Islamists would provoke a backlash by using their new powers as municipal rulers to close down bars and restaurants which serve alcohol.

"We must awaken a people anaesthetised by nearly three decades of dictatorship," Ait Ahmed said in reference to one-party rule by the National Liberation Front (FLN) that ended with the June 12 elections.

He said all democrats had a duty to spread the message of a multi-party system.

The fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front capitalised on widespread economic and political discontent to capture 54 per cent of the vote, double that of the FLN.

## Democracy forum

### Algerian intellectuals to form

ALGIERS, June 22, (Reuter): More than 100 Algerian doctors, lawyers and intellectuals met yesterday to discuss the formation of a "democracy forum" to expand and defend the country's fledgling multi-party system.

Prompted to act by last week's sweeping victory for Muslim fundamentalists in local elections, opposition leader Hocine Ait Ahmed called for a campaign to awaken democratic values among the Algerian people.

"We must awaken a people anaesthetised by nearly three decades of dictatorship," Ait Ahmed said in reference to one-party rule by the National Liberation Front (FLN) that ended with the June 12 elections.

He said all democrats had a duty to spread the message of a multi-party system.

The fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front capitalised on widespread economic and political discontent to capture 54 per cent of the vote, double that of the FLN.

## Former Afghan politicians search for end to 12-year-old feud

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, June 22, (AP): Veteran Afghan politicians have embarked on a bid to forge a political solution to the 12-year-old war in their homeland and to heal deep divisions within the Muslim resistance.

"The first thing is to get these people together," one of the key negotiators said Wednesday the fourth day of talks with leaders of the seven rebel parties.

"They have no credibility among the people," said the negotiator, who asked

not to be identified, fearing publicity would derail the sluggish talks.

Wracked by bitter internal fighting, the so-called rebel government-in-exile has come under heavy fire from its backers for squandering an early military and political advantage over Kabul's Soviet-backed government.

When more than 103,000 Soviet soldiers left Afghanistan in February 1989 after more than nine years of combat, the mujahideen rebels were hailed as heroes. But 16

months later, the resistance has disintegrated into a collection of bickering leaders vying for power.

Washington's military assistance, which has totalled more than \$5 billion US over

# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Dollar static

## European markets gather pace

LONDON, June 22. (Reuter) - European stock markets stood firm today after a heavy overnight fall on the Tokyo exchange and the dollar was static.

In London, the stock and currency markets were preoccupied with statistics showing Britain's current account deficit narrowed markedly in May.

The Financial Times-Stock Exchange index of 100 key stocks closed 8.2 points higher at 2,378.5 while the pound sterling gained by more than half a cent to \$1.7295.

Britain's goods and services trade deficit narrowed by £300 million (\$517 million) in May to £1.3 billion (\$2.24 billion) helped by higher exports and banking and tourism.

The figures were in line with the more optimistic forecasts of financial analysts.

"It's still not a good figure," one dealer said. "Also, the market has started to emphasise wage cost and inflation figures even more than trade numbers, so we won't see it going anywhere. It (the FTSE) will stay in the 2,350 to 2,400 range."

Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major has said he wants to bring Britain's annual current account deficit down to £15 billion (\$25.8 billion) this year from £19 million (\$32.7 billion) in 1989.

European markets were unaffected by the 392.70 mark or 1.22 percent fall in Tokyo's Nikkei average to 31,694.67 points, its lowest level in nearly five weeks.

The Frankfurt Stock Market continued an active four-day spell during which foreign investors returned to the bourse.

The German union fever reared its head again and infected foreigners," said one Frankfurt dealer.

Apart from losing ground against the pound the dollar closed little changed after a quiet European session.

"Volume has been very low today," one London trader said. "The only real action has been centred on the pound."

Today's current account data aside the pound is still being driven by expectations that Britain will soon join the European exchange rate (ERM) currency smoothing mechanism.

"If somebody says sterling isn't going to join ERM, boy will you see a drop," said one London trader for a leading US bank.

The pound closed at 2.8985 marks up from Thursday's 2.8902.

The dollar closed a little weaker against the West German mark at 1.6760 marks, against 1.6800 on Thursday.

Algerian minister in Iraqi oil talks

## Boussena appeals to Opec to stick to quotas

KUWAIT, June 22. (UPI) - Algerian Oil Minister Sadek Boussena urged today member states of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to adhere to their individual quotas to help curtail production and boost oil prices.

Boussena, the current Opec president, made the remarks in a news conference held in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad following his consultations with Iraqi Oil Minister Abdel Rahim Chalabi on price deterioration.

The resolutions adopted at the Geneva Opec meeting in May over the assigned quotas have not been firmly implemented yet on the part of a number of Opec member states," Boussena said in the news conference held jointly with Chalabi.

The Opec president said that the purpose of his tour was to discuss a number of issues related to Opec particularly the sharp decline in oil prices.

He said prices had dropped sharply since Opec last month's meeting in Geneva and blamed it on a number of Opec member states which he said had been violating its Opec-decreed quotas.

"This is a great loss having negative impact on all Opec member states," he said.

Boussena expressed his "deep regret" that a number of Opec member states had not publicly made commitment to stick to its Opec-decreed quotas.

"Opec can control production and adhere to the ceiling production if it

nation tour that would also take him to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and possibly Iran.

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"Opec can control production and adhere to the ceiling production if it

not honoured their Opec-decreed quotas could still improve their position before Opec next meeting in July as these countries still have handsome oil reserves and are not experiencing major economic difficulties," Boussena said.

The situation is becoming serious particularly as the overall production of Opec exceeded 23 million barrels per day when the ceiling production is only 22 million barrels, he said.

"Opec can control production and adhere to the ceiling production if it

ever wanted to win the price battle but if it abandoned this, then there should be reason for its existence," Boussena said.

Chalabi echoed Boussena's appeal to Opec member states to stick to their individual quotas.

The Iraqi official said that his country experienced a great loss as a result of the decline in the oil prices.

In Kuwait, Boussena would hold talks with the new Kuwaiti Oil Minister Rashid Salem Al Ameeri who replaced Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah in a major cabinet reshuffle announced Wednes-

day night.

Oil sources in Kuwait said that Kuwait's oil production policy was unlikely to change as a result of Sheikh Ali's transfer to the Finance Ministry.

The sources said that oil prices lost 30 percent of its value since the start of this year because of violations of the quota system by a number of Opec member states.

On Tuesday, Boussena warned that prices could collapse if Opec member states did not adhere to the May 2 Geneva agreement on limiting production to 22.1 million barrels a day.

Perez pushes for Opec summit

## No change in oil policy: Kuwait

NICOSIA, June 22. (Reuters) - Kuwait's oil policy will remain the same despite a change of oil minister, a senior Kuwaiti oil official said yesterday.

Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah, a key architect of Opec policies and oil minister for 12 years, was replaced by Rashid Al Salem Al Ameeri, a professor of chemical engineering at Kuwait University, in a cabinet reshuffle.

Sheikh Ali was appointed Finance Minister in the new cabinet, 10 days after parliamentary elections.

Al Ameeri, said to be in his early 40s has been a member in Kuwait's Supreme Petroleum Council, which was dissolved last month.

Meanwhile, oil prices and oil demand will rise in the 1990s, Venezuela's energy and mines minister predicted yesterday.

Minister Celestino Armas said he agreed with Opec secretary general Subroto that oil prices had hit bottom, and that prices would rise instantly if all Opec nations adhered to production quotas.

Speaking on a national television programme, Armas insisted that Opec's 13 members were working to live up to quota agreements.

Opec nations "are doing their best to meet their quotas," said Armas, adding that Opec president Sadek Boussena's trip through Gulf nations would create "better discipline" toward quota compliance.

Armas said that Venezuela had strictly adhered to its quota of 1.9 million barrels daily, a figure that makes his nation the fourth largest Opec nation.

Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said yesterday he would like to see an Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries summit this year to discuss Opec's future policies.

Perez told a news conference that leaders from Algeria, Indonesia and Nigeria had agreed to join him in sending their envoys to seek support from other Opec members in the Gulf region this summer.

A slide in world oil prices slowed on Thursday and some traders thought the market may be trying to find a floor.

Prices generally are down by more than one-third this year under the weight of excess Opec supply and bulging stocks.

The New York August futures contract for light, gasoline-rich crude similar to the US benchmark West Texas Intermediate (WTI), advanced US crude stocks are at the highest in eight years.

on strong buying at Thursday's opening although the gains were surrendered later.

Prices for the world benchmark, North Sea Brent blend, were little changed around \$15.60 per barrel.

"It looks like the Brent market is very close to a floor, coming up to the next Opec meeting," said Peter Skeats of Gerald Energy in London.

Opec (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) is already preparing for new talks in Geneva on July 25 when its leaders promise to try again to set leakproof quotas.

"I think the market is considering finding a bottom but can you bet against the stocks?" asked Peter Gignoux, a vice president in London with Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc.

US crude stocks are at the highest in eight years.

'It's an epoch-making development'

## Japan tops US to become largest aid donor

TOKYO, June 22. (Reuters) - Japan for the first time replaced the United States as the world's largest donor of official foreign aid in 1989, the Finance Ministry said today.

"It's an epoch-making development," a ministry official said.

Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) payments totalled \$4.95 billion in 1989. The United States was next at \$7.66 billion and France third with \$7.46 billion, the ministry said.

Japan's 1989 ODA total, at 1.235 trillion yen, was the country's largest even in yen terms, up 5.6 percent from a year earlier, the official said.

But it dropped 1.9 percent in dollar terms, ministry data show, to \$8.95 billion because of yen depreciation against the dollar.

The average 1989 exchange rate was 137.96 yen to the dollar in 1989, compared with 128.15 in 1988, the ministry said.

But growth in Japanese foreign aid spending was less significant in Japan becoming the world's number one donor than a slowdown in US aid spending, the ministry official said.

He said US ODA spending declined to \$7.66 billion in 1989 from 10.14 billion in 1988. Japan increased the value of its bilateral grants by 4.4 percent to \$3.03 billion in 1989 from 1988 and increased loans by 6.3 percent to 3.73 billion in 1988.

These loans to international institutions to be used for development purposes decreased by 19.4 percent to \$2.18 billion in 1989 from 2.71 billion in 1988.

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## Pace of economic growth quickens

WASHINGTON, June 22, (Reuter): US Central Bank chief Alan Greenspan dismissed fears of a recession on Thursday and said he saw no sign of a nationwide credit crunch choking off modest economic growth.

"All things considered, continued modest economic growth remains the most likely outcome, and... enough credit appears to be available to fuel this growth," Federal Reserve chairman Greenspan told the Senate Banking Committee.

While acknowledging that some borrowers were having trouble getting loans, Greenspan said that reflected a justifiable sense of caution by the banks.

Administration officials, lawmakers and some private economists have grown increasingly worried in recent weeks that banks are becoming so wary about extending loans that it could throw the economy into recession.

Banks have turned cautious as their loans have come under closer scrutiny from banking regulators following a spate of real estate bankruptcies in some regions and the collapse of many savings and loan institutions, which are similar to Britain's building societies.

Administration officials have suggested that the Fed should consider easing its tight grip on credit and lowering interest rates to keep the economy going.

But Greenspan showed little sign that he was listening.

"There has not, so far at least, been a broad-based squeeze on credit," he said.

"Access to credit has not been reduced to an extent that has had a significant damping influence on the American economy overall."

He said the Fed was aware of the possibility that a credit crunch could undermine the eight-year economic expansion, but added that had not happened so far.

Although credit has become tighter for commercial real estate, Greenspan said he saw no indications that the ordinary home buyer was having trouble getting loans.

Construction of office buildings is down from last year, but Greenspan blamed that on over-building in the past sparked by the ready availability of credit from savings institutions and banks.

He said that credit was tight in new England, where property prices have sagged and the economy has slowed, but that elsewhere in the country loans were available.

### WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

**TOKYO:** Stocks closed sharply lower with the Nikkei average below 32,000 for the first time in nearly five weeks. A weaker yen and upward pressure on interest rates aroused bearish sentiment. The Nikkei closed down 392.70 points to 31,694.57.

**SYDNEY:** Shares closed firmer on thin volume dominated by trading in major banking stocks. The All Ordinaries index ended 7.1 points up at 1,512.5.

**HONG KONG:** The Hang Seng index ended 4.23 higher at 3,250.44 after local profit-taking alternated with strong overseas buying.

**SINGAPORE:** Share prices closed mixed on thin turnover as investors stayed away from the market amid uncertainty over the performance of Wall Street and Tokyo. The Straits Times index lost 0.65 to 1,532.92.

**BOMBAY:** Share prices rose sharply on heavy buying in anticipation of good results from leading companies. The Bombay index rose 14.41 points to close at an all-time high of 811.59.

**FRANKFURT:** West German shares were firmer at the end of an active four-day spell that saw foreign investors return to the market. The Dax index ended 9.35 points higher at 1,872.97.

**ZURICH:** Shares closed firmer. Dealers said rising bond prices supported sentiment. Interest focused on Jacobs Suchard after Philip Morris said it was to take over the Swiss chocolate and coffee group for \$4 billion Swiss francs. The SPI index rose 9.2 points to 1,189.3.

**PARIS:** Share prices eased slightly to close below opening levels, with a few heavy moves unable to spur broader interest in a generally thin market. The CAC-40 index closed 23.75 points higher at 2,031.73.

## Bonn seeks to aid Gorbachev with multi-billion mark loan

FRANKFURT, June 22, (Reuter): The Bonn government, seeking Soviet agreement for unification with East Germany, said on Thursday it might back a multi-billion mark bank loan to aid Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reform efforts.

A government spokesman said West Germany was considering guaranteeing a credit. A decision was expected shortly.

West German newspapers said Deutsche Bank and Dresdner Bank were leading a consortium to arrange a five billion mark (\$3 billion) loan.

The banks have so far declined comment.

France and West Germany have urged leading Western nations to

provide Moscow with financial aid, as Gorbachev's economic reform plans are under pressure from radicals and conservatives.

West Germany is particularly eager to help the Soviet Union in what is seen as a quid pro quo for the Kremlin's agreement to back its plan for German unification.

"West Germany believes Gorbachev must be supported," a Bonn source said.

Moscow opposes Western plans for a united Germany to be a member of Nato. Foreign ministers from the two Germanys and the four World War Two allies will discuss plans for German unity at a meeting starting today in

East Berlin.

West German leaders say it is crucial for plans for unification that Gorbachev stay in power. Western diplomats in Bonn believe a Soviet Union without Gorbachev would be far less likely to accept membership of a united Germany.

But Gorbachev is fighting for his future in a battle which took a new twist on Wednesday when conservative standard bearer Yegor Ligachev suggested he step down as Communist Party chief.

One senior Bonn official said West Germany was not alone in offering aid to the Soviet Union. "This is an international initiative," he said.

But leading Western nations are squabbling about how best to support Gorbachev.

French President Francois Mitterrand, backed by the West Germans, wants the West to consider major aid packages to the Soviet Union at key meetings over the next three weeks.

His proposal will be aired at next week's European Economic Community summit in Dublin and again at July meeting in Houston of leaders of the world's seven richest countries.

But the United States has hinted strongly that it does not want to participate in such a package. Britain's reaction has also been cool.

US Secretary of State James Baker, en route to East Berlin for talks on

German security issues, said, "there's got to be a significant amount of reform in the Soviet Union before any such assistance could be put to good use."

A US official said there was a "distinct possibility" Washington would not join such an aid package.

Bonn sources said it was clear that no decisions on Western aid to Moscow could be taken in Dublin. But one official added, "Bonn is making a first step."

A five-billion-mark loan to the Soviet Union would help the previously reliable debtor out of a liquidity crisis which has forced it into payment arrears with many Western companies.

According to Western estimates the deterioration of the economy has led to arrears of \$2 billion on trade-related debt.

In 1988, Moscow tapped Western capital markets and Deutsche Bank arranged a three billion mark loan that did not carry a government guarantee.

"The banks obviously want that guarantee now," one government official said.

Officials said that before the details of the credit could be formally announced, the guarantee had to be approved by Bonn's parliamentary budget committee.

Frankfurt banking sources said a credit agreement was likely to be concluded quickly.

### Efforts to increase technical aid to Third World

## UAE and Italy to step up trade

ABU DHABI, June 22, (Opecna): The United Arab Emirates and Italy today highlighted the need for stepping up bilateral trade, economic and oil co-operation, it has been reported here.

In signing the minutes of their joint commission's three-day meeting here, both sides agreed to work towards balancing trade which, so far, has been in Italy's favour.

Representatives from the two countries also agreed to encourage joint exhibitions, exchange visits, and curtail fraudulent practices.

Sources here said that the Italian side had expressed an interest in contributing to economic and industrial development in the UAE, particularly in the oil and gas sectors, and was also keen to secure larger supplies of crude.

Delegates agreed to give priority to proposed accords for avoiding double taxation and protecting investments. It was also agreed to intensify efforts to increase technical aid to developing countries.

In addition, they stressed the importance of technology transfer with the Italian side stating that it was particularly interested in the areas of agriculture and fisheries.

Italian Foreign Ministry undersecretary Claudio Lenoci told a press conference that he had held "constructive" talks with number of UAE officials on boosting co-operation in several sectors.

During a meeting with UAE Economy and Commerce Minister Saif Al Jarwan, he expressed Italy's readiness to participate in the UAE's development drive

### Exports on the rise

## UK current account gap narrows

LONDON, June 22, (Reuter): Increased exports and strong demand for banking and tourism services helped Britain cut its yawning current account deficit by £300 million (\$517 million) in May to £1.3 billion (\$2.4 billion).

The monthly figures, issued by the Central Statistical Office today, came as a welcome boost for Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major after a series of bleak data on the troubled British economy.

Although May's figures showed Britain's trade balance was still well in the red, they showed a steady improvement in the country's trade performance, helped last month by record export sales of \$8.92 billion (\$15.4 billion).

On the foreign exchange market the pound firmed slightly in response to the figures, which were in line with the more optimistic forecasts from financial analysts.

The current account gap in May reflected a trade deficit of £1.5 billion (\$2.58 billion), better than April's revised £1.8 billion (\$3.1 billion) gap. The overall current account gap for April was also revised down to £1.6 billion (\$2.7 billion).

May's trade imbalance was offset by a £200 million (\$344 million) surplus in invisibles such as banking, insurance and tourism.

"The volume of exports of manufactured goods, excluding erratic, in the three months to May was up 14 per cent on a year earlier, a very good export performance indeed," a treasury spokesman said.

But opposition Labour Party said the figures were little cause for celebration and showed a serious imbalance in Britain's economy.

The figures also showed imports rising faster than exports over the three months to the end of May but the spokesman said this was not part of a trend but an "erratic" phenomenon.

Major has said he wants to bring Britain's annual current account deficit down to £1.5 billion (\$2.58 billion) from £19 billion (\$27.7 billion) last year.

Other figures released today showed that the British economy was growing faster than analysts had thought. Gross domestic product, a measure of goods and services, grew by 0.7 per cent.

Analysts said continued high interest rates would probably need to keep the economy in check.

In a speech today Major insisted that interest rates would remain high to combat inflation.

"We need to reduce these pressures. That is why we have had to maintain a tight fiscal stance with high interest rates," he told a meeting of women members of the ruling Conservative Party.

## Gold loses allure

LONDON, June 22, (Reuter): Gold, long cherished as a secure and tangible investment, has lost its allure for speculators and investors in North America and Europe who have been burnt by heavy bouts of Middle East selling.

"The market has become a much thinner affair...it's friendless at the moment," said Michael Spriggs, precious metals analyst with SG Warburg Securities. "There's a general perception that gold is not worth holding on to."

Gold mining analyst Robert Weinberg of James Capel and Co. Ltd: "One can earn a goodly return on cash."

At the Thursday morning session of the twice-daily London fix, gold was set at \$350.00 an ounce, \$10 above recent four-year lows, but about \$75 below 14-month peaks seen last February.

The metal hit an all-time high of \$850 an ounce in January 1980 after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Gold is close to 11-year lows in West German marks and Swiss francs, and in Japanese yen is only 10 per cent above 10-year low set for February last year.

"Until the market is perceived to have bottomed out, and while interest rates stay high, it's going to be difficult to attract the private investor," said Stewart Murray, chief executive of gold fields Mineral Services Ltd.

Analysts say gold enthusiasts are depressed by high interest rates, a firm US dollar, lower oil prices and a perception that global inflation is generally under control.

They are also discouraged by potentially larger Soviet sales this year to finance economic reform, possible further falls in official gold stocks, and above all the chance of more big Middle East sales.

Moscow may have increased sales in the first half of this year to make up for lower oil export earnings. Most of its hard currency comes from exports of energy products.



Budapest Stock Exchange opened on Thursday. It was closed after World War II in 1948 when the communists came to power. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Budapest Stock Exchange opens

### Market to give boost to reforms

BUDAPEST, Hungary, June 22, (AP): The first stock exchange in post-communist Eastern Europe opened in Budapest on Thursday after a lapse of 42 years.

Officials hope the stock market will give a boost to market-oriented reforms and envision the Budapest floor as a future centre for East European stock trading.

Prime Minister Jozsef Antall, in a telegram from West Germany where he is on an official visit, hailed the Budapest Stock Exchange as "an important institution of a market economy."

Interim president Arpad Goencz traced the history of the stock exchange which first opened in Hungary in 1864 but was closed by the communists when they came to power in 1948.

"Until the 80's it was heresy to even suggest anything of the sort," Goencz said, alluding to communists' perception of the stock market as the ultimate symbol of capitalism.

Hungary's communist authorities, tending towards reform, set up a market for state-guaranteed bonds in 1983.

Two years ago an embryonic stock market was created, providing a training ground for Hungarian finance experts who hope they will get a jump on other East Bloc countries in establishing Budapest as a stock trading centre.

In March, a crucial act of securities and the stock exchange was implemented, providing a legal framework for the fledgling market.

However, financial experts say the stock exchange still has a long way to go before it establishes itself on the international market.

The main aim of the exchange is to achieve reprivatization of the country's inefficient, state-owned enterprises, by allowing companies to issue shares to meet their capital needs.

Finance Minister Gyorgy Lajos said at the opening ceremony that the establishment of a stock exchange "does not in itself solve the problem of the liberalization of the economy."

"We have much to do yet in that regard," he added.

In a recent article in the economic weekly Heti Vilaggazdasag, the stock exchange's executive president, Ilona Hardy, wrote that it will need more securities companies than the 41 so far involved.

"To operate well, there is a need for considerably more securities, especially publicly issued shares... a working infrastructure, well-trained stock-market experts and... a new type of investment-oriented attitude," she said.

The situation in Hungary today and the present situation of the securities market are not optimal conditions for the development of a stock market, but at the same time the stock exchange can make a significant contribution to the development of the market," Hardy said.

So far the volume of business has been rather low with papers worth between \$5 and 20 million forints (\$7,000-300,000) being traded at the trial exchange which met three times a week.

Eva Farago, head of the financial department of the new stock exchange, told the daily Pesti Hirlap that the Hungarian currency's lack of convertibility impedes the work of the stock market.

"This has been counterbalanced by the legal framework provided, namely, the Hungarian National Bank guarantees that foreigners can repatriate their dividends in hard currency," Farago was quoted as saying.

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## EVENTS

L.A.N.G.L.I.T.A.

**SUNDAY**  
 June 24  
 6.00 Holy Quran  
 6.10 The Beretain Bears: A cartoon series.  
 6.30 The Beachcombers: "Sunday Drive". Rick, Nick, Jessie and John view some property that Relic is trying to sell John.  
 7.00 Lords of Hokkaido: A look at animal life aspects on the region of Hokkaido.  
 8.00 News in English  
 8.30 Haj and Omra: A religious programme about Eid Al Adha.  
 9.00 Matlock.  
 10.00 Body Matters: A look at cancer and materials which are suspected to be the cause of this disease such as tobacco, alcohol, and asbestos.  
 10.30 The Two of Us: "The Odd Couples": The parents of the bunter pay him a visit.  
 11.00 Best-Seller: "Cause Celebre": Alma has to find marital bliss after her first husband is killed in World War I.  
 12.30 News in Brief  
 12.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

**TUESDAY**  
 June 26  
 6.00 Holy Quran  
 6.10 Footful: A cartoon series.  
 6.30 The New Mickey Mouse Club: A conversation about traditions and customs... advices in a laughable way... amusing game.... A full house show.  
 7.00 Quran and Science: "The Creation of Darkness" — Part 2.  
 7.20 Your Diet: Water. Importance of water to animal life and its multifunctions.  
 7.30 Kate and Allie: "The Odd Couples": Kate moves to stay with Allie in her new house. Problems arise. Comedy.  
 8.00 News in English  
 8.30 Haj and Omra: A religious programme about Eid Al Adha.  
 9.00 You and the Law: A weekly local informative programme on law and regulations enforced in Kuwait.  
 9.15 Charles-in-Charge: "Boat Baby": Banu seeks the help of Charles to help her alcoholic mother stop drinking.  
 8.00 News in English  
 8.30 Haj and Omra: A religious programme about Eid Al Adha.  
 9.00 Around the World: variety of topics, incidents and events from all over the world.  
 9.00 The Equalizer: "Race Traitors": McCall is challenged by a group of neo-Nazis who raise troubles with coloured.

**MONDAY**  
 June 25  
 6.00 Holy Quran  
 6.10 The Mouse Factory: A cartoon series.  
 6.30 Amazing Animals.  
 7.00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of Arab and international news, events.  
 7.30 Charles-in-Charge: "Boat Baby": Banu seeks the help of Charles to help her alcoholic mother stop drinking.  
 8.00 News in English  
 8.30 Haj and Omra: A religious programme about Eid Al Adha.  
 9.00 Around the World: variety of topics, incidents and events from all over the world.  
 9.00 The Equalizer: "Race Traitors": McCall is challenged by a group of neo-Nazis who raise troubles with coloured.

people in New York City.  
 Coming of Age: "Dick's Back". Dick insists to prove to his wife Gemma that he is still young and strong by playing golf.  
 Starring: Gene Barry, John Saxon, Mary Ann Mobley. An art dealer on a secret government mission boards the trans-Europe express on a journey of intrigue and danger...

**WEDNESDAY**

June 27  
 6.00 Holy Quran  
 6.10 Mickey & Donald: A cartoon series.  
 6.30 Hotshotz  
 7.00 Beyond 2000  
 8.00 News in English  
 8.30 Haj and Omra: A religious programme about Eid Al Adha.  
 8.40 Q.E.D.: "Welcome to Fatcamp". A summer camp is arranged in the United States for fat teenagers where they follow a special diet and sports regimen.

**THURSDAY**

June 28  
 6.00 Holy Quran  
 6.10 Police Academy: A cartoon series for children.  
 6.30 Mr Wizard's World: A variety of magic acts, illusions and scientific experiments.  
 7.00 Wild America: "Cotton Tails & Kin". A look at rabbits the most found all over the world... It is hunted for its meat and fur and generates quickly....  
 7.30 The Ministers Today: "The Trial". Herman is accused of causing harm to a man whom he

were Murders". Templar attends a conference on fighting crime where more than one of the attending scientists are murdered and Simon has to find the killer...

**FRIDAY**

June 29  
 6.00 Holy Quran



Saturday — Murder She Wrote.

12.30 News in Brief  
 12.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

**SATURDAY**

June 30  
 6.00 Hooperman: Hooperman's girlfriend requests him to get rid of his dog as it bothers her.  
 6.30 Hans Brinker or The Silver Skates: Hans, a talented painter, is obliged to help his sick father when he meets Gilda, a wealthy young girl, whom he loves and plans to live their own way of life.  
 9.00 Breaking Away: Recreational and entertainment activities carried out in various parts of Kuwait.  
 9.15 Globe TV: A Ticket to the World.  
 10.00 Weekend Programme: A weekly programme on a

variety of local topics and events.  
 10.30 Hooperman: Hooperman's girlfriend requests him to get rid of his dog as it bothers her.  
 11.00 Hans Brinker or The Silver Skates: Hans, a talented painter, is obliged to help his sick father when he meets Gilda, a wealthy young girl, whom he loves and plans to live their own way of life.  
 12.00 News in Brief  
 12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown



Tuesday — Border Town

**Kuwait University bids farewell**

Kuwait University last week held a farewell party to honour all the staff members who are returning to their home countries after serving the university.

The celebration was organised by the University Staff Society.

The pictures show university staff obtaining their honouring prizes and some of the guests who attended the function.

**TELEVISION PROGRAMME****KTV 1**

9.00 Holy Quran  
 9.15 Nabia Wa Saleh: cartoon serial  
 9.40 Ifah Ya Simsim  
 10.10 Good Morning  
 10.30 Ahlam Al Zahra: Arabic serial; Part 13, featuring Majdi Wahba, Karima Mukhtar, Madha Hamdi, Ibrahim Al Shami.  
 11.15 News Summary  
 12.00 Al Raseef Al Barad: Arabic serial; featuring Mahmood Saeed, Shafiqah Al Tall, Faud Al Shomali.  
 1.20 Songs  
 1.30 Sanavar: cartoon serial  
 2.00 News in Arabic  
 2.15 Allah Bu Jassoum: Kuwaiti serial; featuring Hussain Qattan, Abdul Wahab Dosari, Moosa Al Hazim.  
 2.50 Religious programme  
 3.35 AAI Sayis: Arabic play. Starring Ahmad Rabe, Fahmi, Hadi Al Jiyar, Hassan Imam.  
 5.30 Adventures: cartoon serial  
 6.00 Young Artists: presented by Mohammad Al Sheikh  
 6.30 Noor Al Islam: religious programme  
 7.30 Songs and Music  
 8.00 Weekly discussion

**KTV 2**

6.00 Holy Quran  
 6.10 Brave Star: A cartoon serial

6.30 Take Hart: How to make colours from powders by mixing them in water....  
 7.00 Survival: "The Mother Who Never Dies" Wild life in New Zealand, a traditional place for strange animals, birds and insects.

7.30 Out Of This World "Bring Me The Head" News in English  
 8.00 Haj and Omra: A religious programme about Eid Al Adha.  
 9.00 Murder She Wrote: "When The Fat Lady Sings". A crime is committed while Jessica is watching a play in a theatre.

10.00 The Road To War: "The Road To The Total War". Britain and France declare war.

11.00 Feature film: "Bill". Starring Mickey Rooney, Perry, a young man from a rich family, makes acquaintance with Bill an old sick man who changed his life.

12.30 News in Brief

12.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

**Sports Channel**

Channel 6/45  
 5.00 Sport Review  
 6.00 World Cup: Cameroon vs Colombia (Live)  
 8.10 Sport Shots  
 10.00 World Cup: Czechoslovakia vs Costa Rica

Please note that Kuwait Television programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

**WHAT'S ON****Pakistan Arts Circle**

membership campaign  
 June 30: The initial membership campaign of the Pakistan Arts Circle (veterans) will end on June 30 to prepare for elections of a new executive committee. All Pakistanis are invited to join the PAC by completing the membership form. PAC membership is open to any Pakistani wishing to join the group at any time. For details call: 5716388; 5631815; 4843578; 2414570.

**Festival on Ice**

June 19-24: Ice Capades present Festival on ice at the Ice Skating Rink. Two shows daily. Afternoon show features Barbie Doll. The evening show features figure skating champions and exhibition show. Twenty world class skaters promise family entertainment. For reservations Tel. 5230000/2533000.

**Kapilkul**

July 5: Kapilkul awards certificates of attendance to those who attended tailoring, bookkeeping, basic accounts and basic computers courses. The ceremony will be held at Al Araliya Restaurant, 8 pm. Philippine Ambassador Manayag Mohammad Tamano will be the chief guest. Buffet dinner. KD 3 per person. Proceeds will go toward the school fund.

Those who attended self-improvement classes are asked to contact Sarah Macarimbang. Tel: 4839009; 4839889; 4843447.

**At the Meridian**

La Brasserie  
 Thai Corner: Saturday night. Cowboy Night: Every Sunday, with live country music.

Chinese Corner: Monday night feature. Greek Taverna: Mediterranean magic with bousouki music.

Indonesian corner: on Wednesdays; food prepared in front of you.

Jazz Night: New Orleans atmosphere on Thursday night.

Friday: Oriental luncheon buffet; family day.

Versailles: Business lunch; a la carte dinner.

**At the SAS**

Bistro: Sunday/Wednesday — pasta night; Italian music.

Peacock Room: Chinese cuisine; lunch and dinner.

Al Boom: Kuwaiti experience; charcoal grilled food, plus mezze buffet.

Clock snack bar — burgers, french fries, etc.

**At the Messilah Beach**

Al Mubarakia: open around the clock; seafood promotion on Wednesdays, 7 pm; Fridays — Middle Eastern cuisine.

Al Jawharah: Thursday special — special menu; music by Rainbow Band.

Al Berdeneh: BBQ on Thursday in beach-garden restaurant; Lebanese food.

**Beat Festival**

July 12: Coming up next month is the Beat Festival featuring such bands as Neighbuzz, Hurricane, Symphony. The show will be performed at the Anat Restaurant, opposite G.P.O. More details later.

**British Council**

June 25: 6 pm. Video presentation on primary and secondary school education in England and Wales; this will be followed by a question and answer session. Please reserve seats by asking for Mrs Harriet or Mrs Lockey.

June 27, 6 pm; June 28, 10 am: Children's film — Care Bears — Making Friends; 66 minutes. Please book seats.

Tel: 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

**CINEMA TODAY****Al Andalus**

Al Raqassah Wal Siyasi (Arabic) Starring: Nabila Obaid, Salah Qabil

**Al Sahmiya**

Hanafi Al Abhaha (Arabic)

Starring: Adel Imam, Huda Ramzi

**Al Hamra**

Al Raqassah Wal Siyasi (Arabic)

Starring: Mustafa Mutwali, Salah Qabil, Nabila

**Drive-In**

Al Falacheen Ahlam (Arabic)

Starring: Saeed Salem, Hayatiin

**Al Firdous**

Mere Jeevan Saathi (Hindi)

Starring: Rajesh Khanna, Tanuja

**Farheeh Open-air**

Chhunauti (Hindi)

**Al Fahabah**

Nair Saab (Malayalam)

Starring: Mammootty

**Al Jaha**

Cry Freedom

**Granada**

The Survivalist

**Salsibikhat**

Ana Al Rasaad (Arabic)

**Al Jieeb**

Artham (Malayalam)

**Ahmad Drive-in**

Impossible Kid

**PRAYERS**

Prayer

Fajr 3.14 am

Zehr 11.50 pm

Asr 3.24 pm

Maghrib 6.51

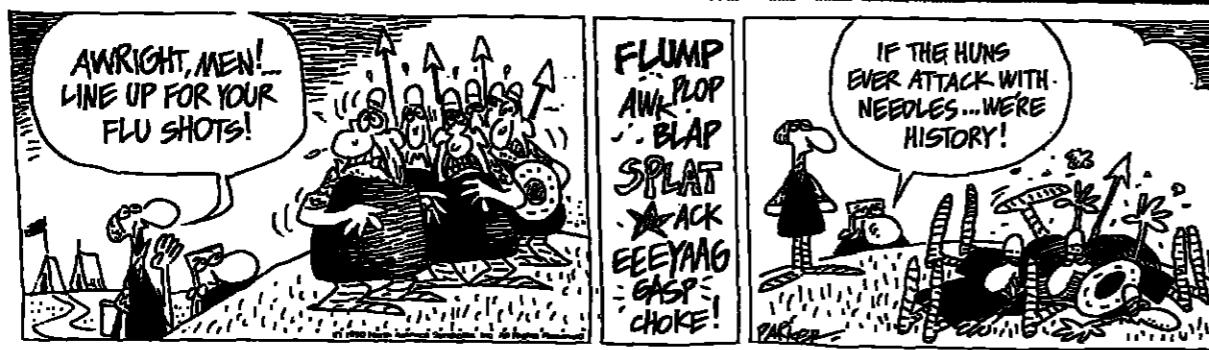
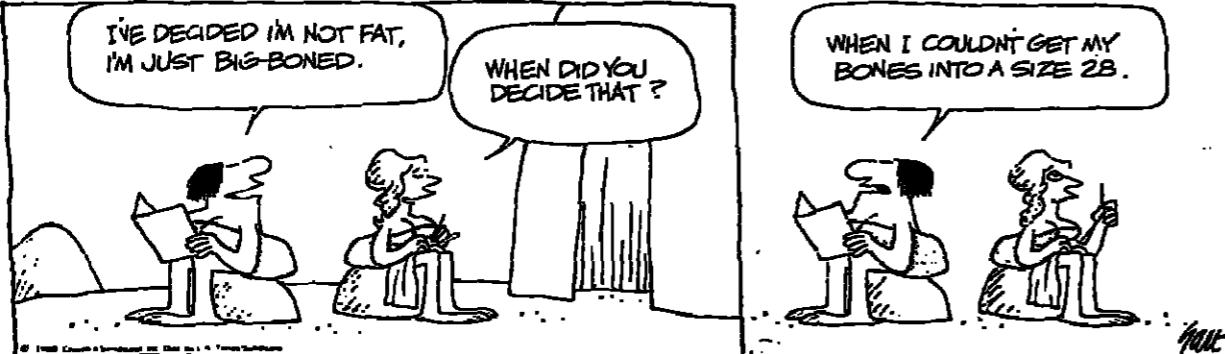
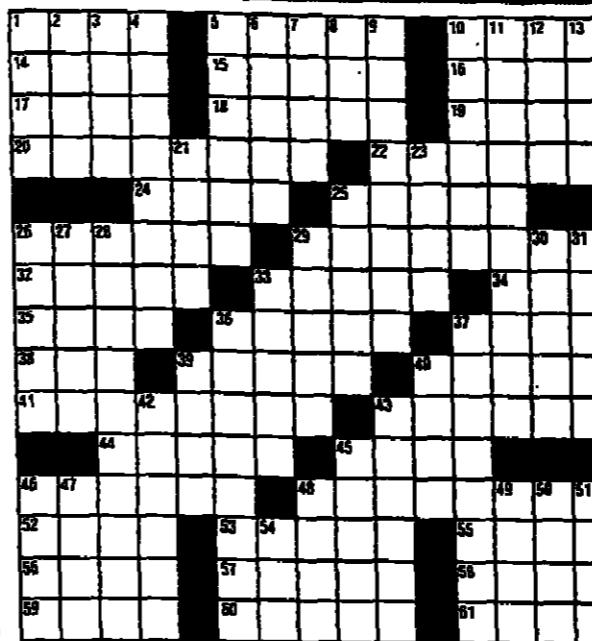
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**BLONDIE** — By Dean Young & Stan Drake**HAGAD THE HORRIBLE****AGATHA CRUMM****SCOTTIE BAILEY****THE WIZARD OF ID****ANDY CAPP****B.C.** — By Johnny Hart**HE-MAN** — By G. Fenton & J. Shull**TODAY'S CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS**

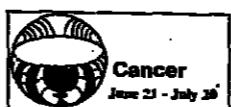
- 1 Summer vacation site
- 5 Aspired
- 10 In the distance
- 14 Winged
- 15 Rome's coin-filled fountain
- 16 Corner
- 17 Matador's match
- 18 Gogo's "Bubba"
- 19 —kin
- 20 Flourishes
- 21 Roman magistrate: Var.
- 24 Irish Gaelic
- 25 Fictional Lorna
- 26 Rat
- 28 Scraps
- 32 Stage whisper
- 33 French fathers
- 34 Wedding news word
- 35 Overturns
- 36 Argyles, e.g.
- 37 Demeanor
- 38 Lamprey
- 39 Eggs on
- 40 Stone: Comb. form
- 41 Whimsical humor
- 43 Orison
- 44 Certain hammers
- 45 Southeast Asian country
- 46 Prickly herb
- 48 Reprimanded
- 52 Doggie bag bits
- 53 Slip away, to wed
- 55 Oriental staple
- 56 Exchange premium
- 57 Turn away
- 58 English public school
- 59 Certain vets
- 60 Prophets

**DOWN**

- 1 Andrew Lloyd Webber hit
- 2 Baseball family
- 3 Playwright Connolly
- 4 Continues
- 5 Confirm
- 6 Sultan's decree
- 7 Milieux for French sailors
- 8 Stowe's Little Women
- 9 Distributes
- 10 Minerva, to Plato
- 11 College group
- 12 Gram or space lead-in
- 13 Bring up
- 21 Sea eagle
- 23 Legendary birds
- 25 Highlanders' gear
- 26 Estimated
- 27 Willow
- 28 Tactful
- 29 Disparage
- 30 19th cen. American inventor
- 31 Gentleman of Granada
- 33 Gushes
- 35 Primary textbooks
- 37 Uses a ruler
- 39 Sideslip
- 40 Cons' contrary
- 42 Cowboys' equipment
- 43 Partitions
- 45 Father Damien's concern
- 46 Amphibian
- 47 Hence
- 48 Deal with a situation
- 49 Ceremony
- 50 Soc. Sci. course
- 51 Fender mishap
- 54 Iacocca

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

ARM	POLER	GERE
BEAM	OPIERA	AMER
AGNI	MERIT	LISA
CATNAPS	CATENAS	
ATRIP	ANELE	
STA POD	AMB NED	
ASTRAY	VALETS	
EASE	ATEN	
GAMIER	NESTOR	
ALT SSS	TRA POT	
CLEARA	LEPTIA	
CATALPA	CAT BOAT	
ENIF	ORGAN OSTE	
DEME	SLINK NEER	
EDDER	HOSEA ODDS	

**YOUR STARS**Aries  
March 21 - April 19Cancer  
June 21 - July 22Libra  
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22Capricorn  
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

Not everything is what it seems and you must make an effort to determine the facts of the matter. A tendency to be careless must be kept under control. You should not dwell too much on the past. Be considerate.

**Taurus**  
April 21 - May 20

Something you have been meaning to do should not be delayed any longer. Nor should you postpone a decision that will have to be taken in the end. Do not allow your personal affairs to get into a muddle. Be less obstinate.

**Gemini**  
May 21 - June 20

You should keep an open mind towards new ideas, but should not make changes just for the sake of the new and different. You are liable to repeat yourself, take care not to. Do not be in too much of a hurry but that does not mean being lackadaisical. Be more patient.

**Leo**  
July 21 - Aug. 22

A little time spent clearing up will save a lot of time being spent later. Make sure you can meet with your obligations. There is a lot to do, but if you get on with it, rather than thinking about it, you will manage. Be observant.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

A letter you have been meaning to write should not be delayed any longer. There is a tendency to be jealous of others, try to restrain it. You will be able to make good progress with a personal matter. Be patient.

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 22

If you are planning to go on a road, either driving or walking. Your lucky numbers are 18 and 27. Make sure you count your change when shopping. You are more liable to get into an argument and should try not to. Be less snobbish.

**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 23 - Dec. 22

You would do well to take just a little more non-strenuous exercise. And do try to maintain a steady weight rather than having to take drastic action later. Make sure your partner knows he is loved and wanted. Be generous.

**Pisces**  
Feb. 20 - March 19

Only if you are more careful will you be able to avoid falling into a trap. If you wait a little longer you may well have left it too late. Do not undertake repairs unless you really know what you are doing, and do beware of electric shocks. Be resolute.

**GOREN BRIDGE****BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARI**

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♦ K 8 6 5 2

7 4

Q 7

♦ A J 10 6

♦ 3

K J 6 3 2

10 9 4 3

♦ A J 6

♦ 7 5 4

SOUTH

♦ Q J 4

♦ A Q

♦ K 8 5 2

♦ K Q 9 3

The bidding:  
South West North East

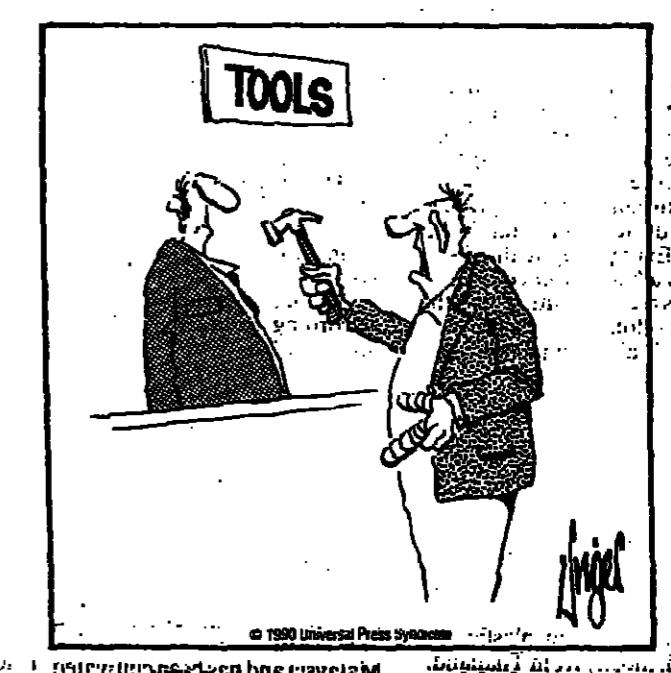
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠

We have often heard players remark that they would rather be lucky than good. It is our experience that skilled players often create their own luck.

On this hand from a duplicate event, North decided that some good scores were needed if the pair was going to place overall. So North rejected the normal bid of three spades in favor of three no trump, in the hope that there would be the same number of tricks available in no trump as in the suit, which would earn a higher score by the scant margin of 10 points. In this assessment North proved correct, since there were only nine tricks to be had on this hand.



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This hammer keeps hitting two inches to the left."

"He's so lazy. He bought himself an exercise car."

"Settle an argument. How do you pronounce his name?"

Lancaster

One of the world's richest and most successful novelists

# Barbara Taylor Bradford: from blank wall to blockbuster

DUBLIN, June 22. (Reuters): Barbara Taylor Bradford faces a blank wall in her Manhattan apartment for 12 hours a day, seven days a week.

It may take years but at the end of long, hard work she emerges with another blockbuster saga to maintain her position as one of the world's richest and most successful novelists.

She sold her first story to a children's magazine at the age of 12 for 50 pence and celebrated by buying her mother a green vase at Woolworths.

Years later, her publisher paid her an \$8 million advance after her first novel "A Woman of Substance" sold 12 million copies worldwide.

In Dublin this month to publicise her latest

book "The Women in His Life," Bradford recalled in an interview how her first four attempts at fiction never got off the ground.

"I would get halfway and then feel 'If I am bored, the reader will be bored,'" she said. So she re-examined her approach and came up with "A Woman of Substance."

Elegant and carefully coiffured, Bradford is a forthright and approachable figure who started out as a 16-year-old cub reporter in her native Yorkshire in northern England.

At 20, she went to London's Fleet Street, became a fashion editor, met and married American film producer Robert Bradford and moved to New York.

Four failed novels stumbled to a halt on her typewriter before she hit the jackpot with the

saga of Emma Harte, a businesswoman making it big in a man's world.

"I wanted to write a saga, I would set it in England and it would be about a woman who became powerful and a woman of substance. I looked at it on paper and thought that is a damn good title," she said.

The book was a phenomenal success and ranked among the fastest-selling novels in the world. It launched a trilogy of bestsellers and became a successful television mini-series starring Deborah Kerr.

"I was sort of lucky. It came out in 1979 at a time when women were just beginning to be independent and emancipated," she said.

Novel writing is a rigid routine. "I sit at a

typing table staring at a blank wall. I have a roll of film in my head which is my imagination."

At her desk by 6.30 in the morning, she puts in a 12-hour day, breaking only to walk the dog. "It is hard work but it is wonderful when you are inspired and it is really flowing."

Graham Greene said that character is plot. That clarifies the whole art of fiction-writing to me. It is the character of the main protagonist that shapes and animates the plot."

She explains her success saying: "I put a lot of emotion on paper, the characters are very believable and the reader gets involved and cares about them."

Her books have sold 25 million copies in English language editions alone. She is published in 32 countries and 18 languages, the latest is Serbo-Croat.

She would bridle at any suggestion that her books could be bracketed with "Heaving Bosom" romantic novels or raunchy sex sagas.

"There is not a lot of sex in them. I prefer to call them love scenes. I am really writing about people's emotions. Everyone knows what goes on in bed."

She was about to embark on a new book about a woman founding a shipping empire when she was sent three books wanting quotes from her to use in advertisements. "All of them were 'A Woman of Substance' in different guises," she said.

So instead she wrote "The Women in His Life" about billionaire tycoon Maximilian West. Much of it is set in the war-torn Berlin of the 1930s and 1940s.

She went to East Berlin in 1987 to research the book. "It was like being in a ghost town. Everyone walked like a robot with eyes fixed ahead. I kept saying this wall has to come down. You cannot shackles people."

"I was going to end the book where I started (in the 1930s) but then history intervened to bring it full circle. Who knew it would happen? History really played into my hands. It ends with the dismantling of the Berlin Wall last year."

## When durians fall, the sarongs go up

### Bumper crop stirs passions

SINGAPORE, June 22. (AP): The durian is back in season and hawkers are thinking up special names and twisting arms to sell a bumper crop of the sweet but malodorous fruit.

Calling the spiky green globe smelly does it injustice. It stinks. And the fruit inspires one of just two responses. You love it or you leave the neighbourhood...

"Like eating ice cream in a busy public toilet," is one of the printable descriptions of the fruit.

Another says it evokes "rich brimstone musk, whispering of depravity and month-old eggs... durian is to fruit what hamburger is to cheese and pornography is to literature."

The durian is high in protein, carbohydrates and vitamins B and C. Experts say it thrives in soil with high sugar content—doubtless contributing to the pungent odour.

The telltale aroma now permeates sections of Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines. Durians ripen twice a year, in December-January and June-July.

The fruit remains largely an Asian delicacy. Early efforts to preserve and ship durians in cans failed because fermentation continued so vigorously the containers burst.

Durians sealed in plastic are exported, mostly from Thailand. The fruit also is used in tinned jam and ice cream.

The fruits vary widely, but many are about 20 centimetres (8 inches) long and 17 centimetres (6.7 inches) wide. Durians weigh about 3 kilograms (6.6 pounds). The outer rind bristles with tough thorns or "fur" that protect a creamy yellow-orange pulp.

The fruit is traditionally eaten raw after careful appraisal and sharp bargaining by purists who pride themselves on picking out just the right one.

That was more difficult this year thanks to the hard-sell tactics of some Singapore vendors plying their trade in the carnival atmosphere of their outdoor stalls. Others tried to take the homely durian up-market with designer labels.

### US-Soviet 'Vets to Vets' group

## Wheelchairs peace

SAN FRANCISCO, June 22. (Reuters): Twenty years ago American Fred Puchta fought a war against communism and 10 years later Russian Sasha Karpenko fought a war to preserve it. Now they are working together to help veterans of the Soviet war in Afghanistan.

The California stockbroker, who fought in Vietnam from 1965 to 1970, and the Soviet poet crippled during his country's intervention in Afghanistan, are part of a US-Soviet veterans' group whose latest project is making wheelchairs in a Siberian helicopter factory.

The group, Vets to Vets, which was started by a Washington state peace group and the Vietnamese veterans of California, sent two American experts to the Soviet Union in May to teach people how to construct an inexpensive wheelchair from helicopter parts.

Many of the wheelchairs will go to the "Afghanistan," Soviet veterans of the Afghan conflict, who have to wait up to three years to get one of their own in

"The best, the best, the very best from Malaysia," chanted one hawker with the aplomb of a determined auctioneer.

Ben Teo, manager of Sch Sen Fruits, pushed the Xo variety—borrowing the name from the label of some expensive cognacs.

"Xo sounds expensive, like something with class. We want to impress people," Ben Teo said. Imported from neighbouring Malaysia, Xo boasts smoother texture and thicker pulp, Teo said.

While ordinary durians cost from 2.50 to 5 dollars (1.36 to 2.72 US dollars) each, an Xo costs eight dollars (4.35 US dollars) a kilogramme.

The bigger king Xo fetches 25 dollars (13.60 US dollars) per kilo. The king has smaller seeds than the ordinary Xo and retains its smell longer, Teo said.

Wholesale prices vary widely according to freshness, weight, shape and source of the fruits.

The police warned that strong arm tactics would not be tolerated after several shoppers complained that they were intimidated by fruit vendors.

Disputes are also sparked when buyers are told to pay for durians they had opened for inspection, then turned down as inferior.

Related botanically to hibiscus, hollyhock, cotton and kapok, durian is native to Malaysia and has been cultivated for centuries. Unlike the shorter Thai plantation version, trees in Malaysia and elsewhere are too lofy to harvest and the fruit crashes to the ground when it is ripe.

Fermentation that starts the moment it drops can change the flavour perceptibly within hours. The fruit spoils within a week and few will eat durian more than three days after they fall.

Thailand is the biggest commercial grower and old Asia bands rate that durians as tops in consistency and flavour. The most malodorous seem to be grown in the Philippines.

Malaysian devotees regard it as a passion fruit capable of stirring deep emotions. "When the durians come down the sarongs go up," according to local legend.



Hats off!



Racegoers (from left to right) Veronica Doyle, Kate Gerhauser, Nicola Keogh and Jenny Linden show off their hats June 20, prior to the second day of racing at Royal Ascot. (Reuters wirephoto)



## Ski slopes, hunt ball and the bedroom spur French fashion

PARIS, June 22. (AP): Inspiration from the bedroom, the ski slopes and the hunt ball is sparking the French fashion scene for next fall.

It's also a nostalgic look back to the 1960s with reams of beautiful folklore prints from the likes of Yves Saint Laurent and Ungaro.

What was shown on the Paris runways is not necessarily what will appear on the racks of your friendly local store, even if you're in the thick of Manhattan or ranging around Malibu Beach.

But smart shoppers keep in mind the novelties they've seen as inspiration from this fashion capital.

Sports are currently playing big in the fashion field, as designers like Gianfranco Ferré of Dior look to the hot colours of race-course jockeys' silks.

Karl Lagerfeld is still past master of the fitted long jacket, or redingote short coat over coltish long legs—both for Chanel and Alexander McQueen.

Ferré, too, likes these sleek redingote coats, often giving them an Edwardian dash of elegance for Dior with top hats and organza bows at the neck. But the main sports inspirations are coming from the ski slopes and Tour de France bicycle race, with drawstring parkas and skin-tight shiny cycling shorts.

Shown for next winter, the shiny stretch biking

gear is already a big hit on Paris streets this summer, usually worn by the under 25 set. Older French women, even though in top form, usually have the good sense to dress rather more conservatively than their daughters and grand-daughters, even though they do aim to be elegant and sexy.

The current active sporting look adapted to street wear for the young comes out in short tights with long pantyhose, or long stirrup stretch pants. And jackets are all-important. They may be on the puffy taffeta side, as shown by ready-to-wear designers like Jean-Charles de Castelbajac, or versions of hooded, drawstring windbreakers, seen throughout all French collections these days.

At Chanel, designer Karl Lagerfeld likes to mix up the ski-slope wear and very rich fabrics and details. His tiny minis and simply legs (alope) encased in tights with their hot-coloured, important toppers make for a youthful winter line.

Chanel-lovers, however, are also looking to the new cruise line shown for next winter here. It is very abbreviated, but full of excellent details, like beautifully cut short jackets, round Chanel-logo buttons matching the outfit, pearl chokers with

beads larger than cherries and chain-circled button-pearl earrings bigger than the ear itself. And of course, the tight shorts, or currently fashionable pedal pushers, are given the Chanel filip of big buttons up the side.

From the bedroom come some of the late-day ideas for next fall and winter. Touches of satin and lace give discreet sexy touches to luxury ready-to-wear. Hanae Mori, the most Parisian of Japanese designers, even brought out a line of dance-hall taffeta side, as shown by ready-to-wear designers like Jean-Charles de Castelbajac, or versions of hooded, drawstring windbreakers, seen throughout all French collections these days.

Another byword for next winter is the enthusiastic embrace of folklore, especially by influential designers like Ungaro, Saint Laurent and Christian Lacroix. The creative Lacroix never left the folklore camp. He always shows a group of prints and silks inspired by his colourful Provencal landscape and rich fabrics from Byzantine and Far Eastern origin.

Paris is now unveiling clothes year-round, even between the big group shows. Recent out-of-season showings included a quiet comeback from the House of Rochas, who had kept a very low profile with perfume and accessories only after the death of

Marcel Rochas in 1955. They hired an Irishman named Peter O'Brien, who worked with Marc Bohan at Dior and at Chloe, to refurbish the house image and bring out clothes with personality.

His clothes for next winter were an exercise in subtlety, in the high-priced category. Details were haute-couture style in the full and fitted gored long skirts, satin, lace and soft cashmere fabrics.

"This is definitely understated chic," said O'Brien, who believes in autumnal colours to match the ladylike styles. Deep slate gray, mustard, burgundy, pine or brick and autumn leaf red. Long and easy pants and very full skirts as shown for Rochas may be beacons for what's to come in the next generation of fashion.

As Paris has come through the sharp, tailored looks, the sexy minx styles and the return to 1960s minis, it still seems floundering in what's due for the 1990s. Will the next decade of fashion be kinder and gentler to women?

As more styles, fabrics and colours are being shown every season in the rush to be commercially successful, it seems that women are more free than ever to choose gentle or tough chic.



Jagger (left) and Richards perform during their concert at the Velodrome in Marseille, southern France June 20. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Flamenco, tango and all things Latin stir the stolid Dutch

THE HAGUE, June 22. (Reuters): Three centuries after the Netherlands broke away from the Spanish empire, Latin music, dance and literature are enjoying an unprecedented renaissance among the usually reserved Dutch.

Posters in major Dutch cities advertise Tango and Flamenco lessons and performances and at least half a dozen professional Dutch musicians have taken to singing Latin music in Spanish.

"Eva Luna," a lyrical tale by Chilean writer Isabel Allende of an orphan making her way in the world,

was the best selling novel in the Netherlands last year.

In the eastern city of Utrecht, Flamenco is thriving. The Centro Flamenco Puro, a school which opened last September in an industrial loft, has 200 students, most of them amateurs, who come weekly to dance to the fast, rhythmic Spanish music.

Flamenco lets people let go. It allows them a bit of coquetry which is something that is just not done anymore in our emancipated society," said Rini Kersten, the 35-year-old Dutchman who runs the

school.

Kersten said the Flamenco fad has spread in part

due to a rise in the numbers of Dutch who have had holidays in Spain in recent years and the popularity of the opera and movie "Carmen."

"There's hardly a student who doesn't have an interest in Spain beyond Flamenco. Many of them are also learning Spanish. It becomes a sort of hobby and the longer they take lessons the more addictive it becomes," he said.

Others with a hankering for the Latin beat are

turning to the Tango.

"Tango and Flamenco are similar in that they are exact but try to create a tension between aggression and tenderness. Hardness and softness, but they are dance forms," said Wouter Bravé, who teaches Tango in Amsterdam.

A Dutchman, he spent several years in Buenos Aires studying Tango before beginning to teach in 1982. He said interest in traditional Tango had blossomed in the past four years.

## Right to bop the night away

### Disco owners defend

ROME, June 22. (Reuters): A government clampdown on the right of Italian youngsters to bop until they drop — whether at dawn or even later — has caused uproar among disco-goers and owners.

A controversial government decree, which took effect this month, says discos and night clubs must close at two am. Those in tourist areas are allowed to stay open until four am in peak summer months.

Ministers say they are trying to stem a spate of Saturday night car accidents in which youngsters, exhausted and sometimes worse for drink, have been killed on the long drive back from discotheques.

But thousands of disco owners have refused to obey the curfew, saying it would force many night clubs to close and will fail to cut road deaths.

The death count in road accidents between midnight on Saturdays and five am on Sundays is nearly six times worse than other days of the week, official figures show.

Italian youngsters think nothing of driving 80 km (100 miles) or more to a fashionable night club and then returning home again at dawn.

The worst toll was on a February weekend. Twenty-three people were killed in



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COLLATED World Cup standings and results and goalscores after the completion of first round matches yesterday.

#### Standings

Standings (tabulated under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

#### Group A

Italy	3	3	0	0	4	0	6
Czechs	3	2	0	1	6	3	4
Austria	3	1	0	2	2	3	2
US	3	0	0	3	2	8	0

#### Group B

Cameroon	3	2	0	1	3	5	4
Romania	3	1	1	4	3	3	
Argentina	3	1	1	3	2	3	
Soviets	3	1	0	4	4	2	

#### Group C

Brazil	3	3	0	0	4	1	6
Costa Rica	3	2	0	1	3	2	4
Scotland	3	1	0	2	2	3	2
Sweden	3	0	0	3	3	6	0

#### Group D

W. Germany	3	2	1	0	10	3	5
Yugoslavia	3	2	0	1	6	5	4
Colombia	3	1	1	3	2	3	
UAE	3	0	0	3	2	11	0

#### Group E

Spain	3	2	1	0	5	2	5
Belgium	3	2	0	1	6	3	4
Uruguay	3	1	1	2	3	3	
S. Korea	3	0	0	3	1	6	0

#### Group F

England	3	1	2	0	2	1	4
Iceland	3	0	3	0	2	2	3
Netherlands	3	0	3	0	2	2	3
Egypt	3	0	2	1	1	2	2

#### Results

Group A	1	Austria	0
US	1	Czechs	5
Italy	1	US	0
Austria	0	Czechs	1
Italy	2	Czechs	0
Austria	2	US	1

#### Group B

Argentina	0	Cameroon	1
Soviets	0	Romania	2
Argentina	2	Soviets	0
Cameroon	2	Romania	1
Argentina	1	Romania	1
Cameroon	0	Soviets	4

#### Group C

Brazil	2	Sweden	1
Costa Rica	1	Scotland	0
Brazil	1	Costa Rica	0
Sweden	1	Scotland	2
Brazil	1	Scotland	0
Sweden	1	Costa Rica	2

#### Group D

UAE	0	Colombia	2
W. Germany	4	Yugoslavia	1
Yugoslavia	1	Colombia	0
W. Germany	5	UAE	1
Yugoslavia	4	UAE	1
W. Germany	1	Colombia	1

#### Group E

Belgium	2	S. Korea	0
Uruguay	0	Spain	0
Belgium	3	Uruguay	1
S. Korea	1	Spain	3
Belgium	1	Spain	2
S. Korea	0	Uruguay	1

#### Group F

England	1	Ireland	1
Netherlands	1	Egypt	1
England	0	Netherlands	0
Ireland	0	Egypt	0
England	1	Egypt	0
Ireland	1	Netherlands	1

#### Goalscorers

#### Goalscorers after the first round

4 - Michel (Spain)

3 - M. Rudi Voeller (West Germany), Lothar Matthaeus (West Germany)

2 - Marius Lacatus (Romania), Tomas Skuhrov (Czechoslovakia), Careca (Brazil), Davor Jovic (Yugoslavia), Roger Milla (Cameroon), Michal Bilek (Czechoslovakia), Juergen Klinsmann (West Germany), Gavril Balint (Romania), Darko Pancev (Yugoslavia), Salvatore Schillaci (Italy), Mueller (Brazil)

1 - Francois Omari Biyik (Cameroon), Bernardo Redin (Colombia), Carlos Valderrama (Colombia), Roberto Baggio (Italy), Ivan Hasek (Czechoslovakia), Milan Luhovy (Czechoslovakia), Paul Caliguri (US), Tomas Brolin (Sweden), Juan Cayasso (Costa Rica), Gary Lineker (England), Kevin Sheedy (Ireland), Marc Degryse (Belgium), Michel de Wolf (Belgium), Wim Kieft (Netherlands), Magdi Abdel-Ghani (Egypt), Pedro Troglia (Argentina), Jorge Buruchaga (Argentina), Giuseppe Giannini (Italy), Uwe Bein (West Germany), Khalid Ismail (United Arab Emirates), Stuart McCall (Scotland), Mo Johnston (Scotland), Glenn Stromberg (Sweden), Hwangbo Kwan (South Korea), Leo Clijsters (Belgium), Enzo Scifo (Belgium), Jan Ceulemans (Belgium), Pablo Bengoechea (Uruguay), Oleg Protasov (Soviet Union), Andrei Zymantovich (Soviet Union), Alexander Zavarov (Soviet Union), Igor Dobrovolsky (Soviet Union), Pedro Monzou (Argentina), Pierre Littbarski (West Germany), Freddy Rincon (Colombia), Safet Susic (Yugoslavia), Robert Prosinicki (Yugoslavia), Ali Thani Juma (United Arab Emirates), Gerhard Rodat (Austria), Andreas Oris (Austria), Bruce Murray (US), Roger Flores (Costa Rica), Hernan Medford (Costa Rica), Johnny Ekstrom (Sweden), Alberto Gorri (Spain), Patrick Vervoort (Belgium), Daniel Fonseca (Uruguay), Niall Quinn (Ireland), Ruud Gullit (Netherlands), Mark Wright (England)



Medford scores Costa Rica's winning goal. (Reuter wirephoto)



Muller gets the winner for Brazil. (Reuter wirephoto)



Leighton kneels dejectedly after Muller scores. (Reuter wirephoto)



Brazil's Careca (centre) in action. (Reuter wirephoto)

# Brazil win group, Costa Rica shock Europeans

## Scotland and Sweden go out of World Cup



Dunga (right) of Brazil in action against Scotland's McCall. (Reuter wirephoto)

TURIN, June 22. (Reuter): Brazil bidding for a record fourth World Cup title, duly won Group C at a canter and were joined in the second round by Costa Rica, one of the surprise successes of the tournament.

Latin America's resounding triumph over Europe was complete on the final night when Scotland sunk 1-0 by a late Brazilian goal in Turin and eliminated.

In Genoa, Costa Rica came from behind to beat Sweden 2-1 and qualify for the sudden-death stage, prompting nation-wide celebrations in the small Central American republic.

The Costa Ricans, making their debut in the finals, had already beaten Scotland, whose only victory was over Sweden in what was ironically the most exciting match of group.

Though the Swedes, who lost every match, proved the biggest disappointment, Brazil were not far behind despite winning every match.

"The more we play the better we get and that is the most important thing for me," Brazilian coach Sebastiao Lazaroni said after the Scotland match.

Many people would do and disagree—ranging

## Sports news

## Irwin ahead

RYE, New York, June 22, (Reuters): US Open champion Hale Irwin continued to play a hot hand yesterday when he used an ace to post a five-under-par 66 that put him one shot off the lead after the first round of the Westchester Classic.

## Two-way tie

ROCHESTER, New York, June 22, (Reuters): Nancy Lopez enjoyed another return to the Rochester International by posting a four-under-par 68 yesterday to share the lead with Kathy Postlewait after an eagle-filled opening round at the 6,162-yard Locust Hill Country Club course.

## Chang upset

MANCHESTER, England, June 22, (Reuters): Michael Chang, last year's French Open champion, crashed out of the Manchester Open men's tennis tournament yesterday when he was beaten 7-6, 7-5 by Austrian Mark Kitzman.

## ICC Trophy

AMSTERDAM, June 22, (Reuters): The second semifinal match in the International Cricket Conference (ICC) trophy resumes today after rain stopped play yesterday. South Africa 231 (for seven in 60 overs, Bangladesh 112 for five after 34.4 overs). (Winners meet the Netherlands in Saturday's final).

## Campese returns

BRISBANE, Australia, June 22, (Reuters): Australia's David Campese returns for the first game at half-back in three years in Sunday's second rugby union Test against a French team which experienced since its first Test defeat.

## Drug tests

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, June 22, (Reuters): Olympic long jump bronze medallist Larry Myricks, already under suspension after testing positive for a banned substance, has failed drug tests at two more meets, the Athletics Congress (TAC) said yesterday.

## Baseball games

NEW YORK, June 22, (Reuters): Results of Major League baseball games played yesterday:

Giants 4 - 3 Baltimore  
Red Sox 7 - Toronto  
Marlins 3 - Montreal  
Cardinals 3 - Atlanta  
National League  
Astros 3 - Cincinnati 3

## W. German rider

RUDEKA, Yugoslavia, June 22, (Reuters): West German motorcycle rider Reinhold Roth won a deep come yesterday in the third stage in Yugoslavia Grand Prix race last Sunday.

## Record missed

BRATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia, June 22, (Reuters): Romanian high jumper Sonja Matei narrowly failed with an attack on the men's world record at the Bratislava Athletics Grand prix on Wednesday.

## Tennis star

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, June 22, (AP): Australian Chris Evert-Lloyd beat Steffi Graf in the final of the women's tennis tournament at the Stockholm Grand Prix yesterday.

Evert-Lloyd 6-3, 6-2; Graf 6-3, 6-2.

## Lendl favoured

WENTWORTH, England, June 22, (AP): Henri Leconte has joined the growing band of tennis players who feel Ivan Lendl can at last achieve his ambition of winning Wimbledon.

## Mandlikova quitting

EASTBOURNE, England, June 22, (Reuters): Hana Mandlikova, former French, US and Australian Open champion, said on Wednesday she is to retire from singles tennis after this year's Wimbledon.

## Hockey tourney

AMSTELVEEN, Netherlands, June 22, (Reuters): Results of the sixth day's play yesterday in a men's major hockey tournament:

Australia drew with Pakistan 4-4 (halftime 4-1). Scorers: Australia — Jay Stacy, Greg Corbit, Warren Birmingham, Graham Reid, Pakistan — Farhat Hussain Khan, M. Osman Ibrahim, Tahir Zahoor, Qazi Mohib Rehman.

West Germany beat India 4-3 (halftime 2-1). Scorers: West Germany — Frederick Hess, Andreas Keller, Andreas Becker (2), India — Jagdev Singh, Jagbir Singh, Mohammed Arif.

Netherlands beat Britain 1-0 (halftime 1-0). Scorer: Gjjs Weterings.

Standings (tableau under matches played, won, drawn, lost, goals for/against, points)

Australia 4 3 1 0 12 8 7  
Netherlands 4 2 0 1 9 6 6  
Pakistan 4 2 1 1 11 9 5  
W. Germany 4 2 1 1 9 8 5  
India 4 2 0 2 10 10 4  
Spain 4 0 1 3 7 12 1  
Britain 4 0 0 4 3 8 0

# Spain beat Belgium

## Uruguay avoid elimination

UDINE, June 22, (Reuters): Group E produced the World Cup's leading first round goalscorer in Spanish midfielder Michel and was the two solid European teams — Spain and Belgium — who prevailed over South American and Asian opposition.

That outcome was predictable

but the South Americans, Uruguay, proved to be the jokers in the pack with a topsy turvy series of matches.

They threatened at the outset to cause problems, outplaying Spain in their opening match. But in the end Uruguay avoided elimination only through an injury time goal against South

Korea.

"We carry the weight of a rich past on our shoulders," explained Uruguayan manager Oscar Tabarez, whose country won the first World Cup in 1930 and again in 1950.

## Favourites

"When you talk of Uruguay, you remember the two World Cups we won and consider us among the favourites. In reality, we have problems to solve and we're trying to build up a new identity."

Uruguay's immediate reward is a second round clash against hosts Italy, three times winners themselves, in the pressure cooker atmosphere of the Olympic Stadium.

The Koreans had been expected to provide the stiffest opposition. Asia could muster and help create what was billed as the most closely balanced opening round group.

But, physically and technically not able to match the Europeans and South Americans, the Koreans lost all their matches fairly tamely.

"We tried to do everything we could but we need experience," said manager Lee Hoe-Taik. "It would help greatly if some of our players could get experiences of playing in some of the more developed countries."

Belgium, the group's seeded team, started with a comfortable 2-0 win over South Korea and tightened their grip on the group with a 3-1 defeat of Uruguay.

But Spain, after a nervous start in which they were left off the hook by Uruguay and escaped with a goalless draw, then began to draw out some of the skills of a richly talented squad.

## Hat-trick

Above all, it was Michel — real name Jose Miguel Gonzalez Martin del Campo — who turned

the tables. A brilliant hat-trick of individual goals against South Korea, and a penalty conversion against Belgium, almost single-handedly left Spain as group winners.

Defender Alberto Goriz secured the 2-1 victory over Belgium after Patrick Vervoot had equalised Michel's opener, but it was the imposing figure of Andoni Zubizarreta who seemed to be Spain's real guardian.

Neither Uruguay's Ruben Sosa nor Belgium's Enzo Scifo could get things right when facing Zubizarreta's bar and Spain were let off.

Scifo, likewise, appeared uncharacteristically unsure when he stepped up to take a penalty against Zubizarreta. His shot hit the bar and Spain ran out 2-1 winners of the match which decided the top two places in the group.

The result also avenged Spain's elimination from the 1986 World Cup in Mexico at the hands of Belgium, who won that quarterfinal clash on penalties.

Uruguay's tradition of cliff-hanging reached ridiculous proportions.

## Confidence

They were well into injury time in their last match when 20-year-old substitute striker Daniel Fonseca rose to head in a free kick with a confidence belying his lack of experience.

Fonseca's goal saved his own team and prevented the Koreans achieving a face-saving draw which would have matched their best World Cup result in three appearances in the finals.

**Berger needs to atone for Canadian GP**

MEXICO CITY, June 22, (Reuters): Gerhard Berger will be under extraordinary pressure to atone for his Canadian sin when he squeezes himself into the cockpit of his McLaren for Sunday's Mexican Grand Prix motor race.

The Austrian, a bit over six months since his first win since joining the McLaren team this year, jumped the start of the Canadian Grand Prix from the front row on the grid and received a one-minute penalty.

Berger drove his Honda-powered car magnificently after the critical error. He recaptured the winning flag ahead of team mate Ayrton Senna, — the race's official winner — and made up enough time to earn fourth place points and remain second in the drivers' championship.

Berger's dazzling display of speed did not excuse his amateurish transgression and he must surely feel he needs a flawless drive on Mexico's City's dusty, Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez.

On the other side of the McLaren garage Senna, who scored a lights to flag victory here last year, is under no such pressure.

Peter Edwards, the Essex secretary, said the move would upset spectators and sponsors and cost counties money.

"I have tested the water with some of our members and they don't like it. In particular, both they and sponsors are not happy about losing a Saturday as a first day of a county match."

• Jonathan Milmow, New Zealand's fast-medium bowler, has been ruled out of the remainder of the tour of England.

The Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) said from next year county matches would start on Tuesdays and Fridays instead of Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The move will enable Test players to meet up on the Monday evening and allow an extra practice day ahead of Test matches which traditionally start on a Thursday.

"Touring sides have enjoyed a stress fracture of the right shin."

No matter what happens on Sunday, however, the soft-spoken Brazilian will return to Europe top of the 1990 championship.

"I don't ever remember having that many points higher than anybody in the championship — especially early in the season," Senna said.

**English county cricket scores**

LONDON, June 22, (Reuters): Close play scores on the second day of three-day English County Championship cricket matches.

At Worcester: Sussex 85 for no wicket off 40 overs (N. Lenham 42 not out) v Worcestershire.

At Gloucester: no play today, Gloucestershire 34 for two off 20 overs v Hampshire.

At Leicester: Leicestershire 320 for six wickets in 102.5 overs (J. Whisker 116, W. Benjamin 101 not out) Derbyshire 70 for no wicket off 18 overs.

At Bath: Somerset 104 for one off 45.1 overs (A. Hayhurst 44 not out, I. Cook 42 not out) v Glamorgan.

At Sheffield: Warwickshire 231 in 91.3 overs (K. Parker 49 D. Gough three for 36). Yorkshire 223 for five off 33 overs (A. Marshall 53).

At Old Trafford: Lancashire 222 for five off 97 overs (G. Mendis 92 not out) v Middlesex.

At Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire 100 in 57.2 overs. Surrey 303 for three off 98.5 overs (D. Ward 154 not out, R. Aikhan 83).

Other match

At Cambridge: Kent 329 for three declared (C. Cowdrey 102 not out) Cambridge University 57 for two.

Chimes of Freedom, ridden by Steve Cauthen, wins one of the Ascot races. (Reuter wirephoto)

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Ruud Gullit about to score his team's only goal. (Reuter wirephoto)



England's Steve Bull steps over Egypt's Rabia Yassin. (Reuter wirephoto)



Egypt's Hossem Hassan (left) tries to stop Chris Waddle. (Reuter wirephoto)



Netherlands' Frank Rijkaard and Ireland's John Aldridge fight for the ball. (Reuter wirephoto)

# England edge Egypt to move into 2nd round

Ireland, Netherlands go through after 1-1 draw



Wright (left) jubilates after scoring. Right: Egypt's Hany Ramzy (centre) cries after his team's defeat. (Reuter wirephoto)



## Lendl, Becker and Edberg: the big three

LONDON, June 22. (Reuter): Ivan Lendl, Boris Becker, Stefan Edberg — it is difficult to conceive of any other player winning the men's singles title at Wimbledon this year.

The ruling triumvirate of men's tennis seem to be tightening their grip on the grass court game. They tower above the would-be pretenders.

A look at the last four finals bears this out. Between them the three rivals have filled seven out of the eight final places since 1986. The exception was 1987, when Pat Cash of Australia broke in on the party and snatched the crown in a memorable match with Lendl.

This year, the next best player appears to be John McEnroe, the 31-year-old American who hopes he can still add to the previous championships he won in 1981, 1983 and 1984.

Though he had just returned from a four-month injury-induced absence, he still battled along with the big three into the Queen's Club semifinals last week before Lendl blasted him away 6-2, 6-4.

The American described it later as a "sobering reality" and underlined his recognition of the gap that exists when he said: "Maybe I'll be better in a couple of months. Right now I feel there is a lot of hard work to be done."

Lendl, meanwhile, enters the Wimbledon fray as the top seed and the favourite after he went on from beating McEnroe to demolish Becker 6-3, 6-2 in the Queen's Club final.

The US-based Czechoslovak, who has never won Wimbledon, has never looked better on grass, a surface which was anathema to him for so many years.

## Dubai to host squash event

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, June 22. (AP): The first-ever squash World Cup will be held in Dubai early next year, it was announced today.

Jehangir Khan of Pakistan, world champion who is referred to as the world's most successful squash player, told a press conference that the \$100,000 championship was the richest in the world.

The second richest would be the \$102,000 event previously held in Cardiff, Wales.

In all, 32 of the world's best squash players will be taking part in the event, slated for Jan. 28-Feb. 4, 1991, Jehangir said.



Ahmed Abdou of Egypt (centre) is pulled down by Wright (right) while England's Paul Gascoigne watches. (Reuter wirephoto)

CAGLIARI, June 22. (Reuter): England overcame Egypt's packed defence and cynical attitude to clinch a place in the knockout stages of the World Cup finals when they won their final Group F match 1-0 yesterday.

A 58th minute goal, headed in by central defender Mark Wright, broke the deadlock in a tense match marred by the North Africans' spoiling tactics attitude in pursuit of a draw.

England will meet Belgium in Bologna on Tuesday in the second round.

The goal came from one of a procession of free kicks awarded against Egypt and was taken by midfielder Paul Gascoigne on the left. He floated the ball in to the goalmouth and Wright outjumped goalkeeper Ahmed Shubair to deflect the ball down and into the net.

Two Egyptians were cautioned for time-wasting before England scored as Egypt employed every means they knew in an effort to frustrate England.

Although England were never able to produce any of the quality soccer which they had shown against the Netherlands last Saturday, they fully deserved their victory.

The Egyptians did little but attempt to spoil the game. Several of their players appeared to be quick, agile and technically adept, but the tactics employed by coach Mahmoud El Gohari were aimed at achieving nothing better than a draw from an undistinguished evening.

With Ireland holding the Netherlands to a 1-1 draw in Palermo, England's victory ensured they finished as outright winners of Group F in which every other match ended in a draw.

Egypt finished fourth and were

eliminated from the finals with the jeers of the Sant'Elia Stadium's frustrated spectators ringing in their ears.

Having abandoned the sweeper system used against the Netherlands, England switched their tactics to an attacking 4-2-4 against Egypt, but were rarely able to show any of the offensive skills which they had been expected to display.

The first half was littered with stoppages and lengthy breaks for treatment to Egyptian players, many of whom rolled in agony whenever they were tackled, and it was hardly surprising that England became more and more desperate.

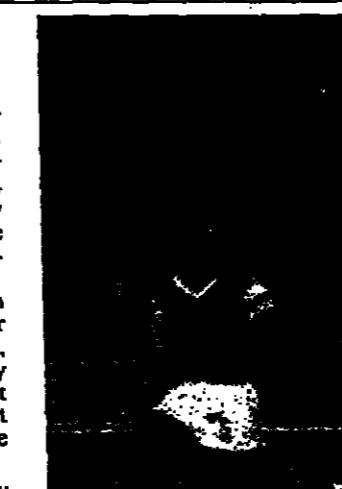
England, however, knew exactly what they were doing and not only produced the first shot after 19 minutes but also went close to scoring in the final minute of the half when a long shot by Magdi Abdel-Ghani sent England's 40-year-old goalkeeper Peter Shilton diving to his right to save.

Abdel-Ghani had been cautioned six minutes earlier for time-wasting and he was followed into the referee's notebook after the interval by defender Ibrahim Hassan who dabbled over a throw-in.

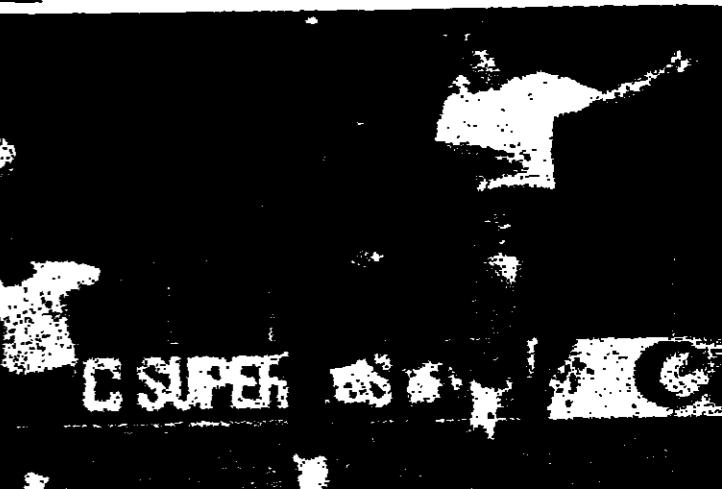
England played most of the progressive and inventive football to be seen in the second half and Steve Bull went close from a cross by Chris Waddle before Wright provided the decisive strike and recorded his first goal for England.

● A 71st minute opportunist equaliser by striker Niall Quinn took the Irish through to the knockout phase in their first ever World Cup.

The tall Quinn stepped in to score from six metres after Dutch goalkeeper Hans van Breukelen let a back pass from Berry van



Aerle squirms agonisingly from his goal. (Reuter wirephoto)



C SUPER ESP.



Ireland's Ruud Gullit scores a goal. (Reuter wirephoto)

## WORLD CUP NOTES

### Today's matches

1. Cameroon vs Colombia — 6 pm (Kuwait time).

2. Czechoslovakia vs Costa Rica — 10 pm (Kuwait time).

Both the matches will be telecast live by KTV.



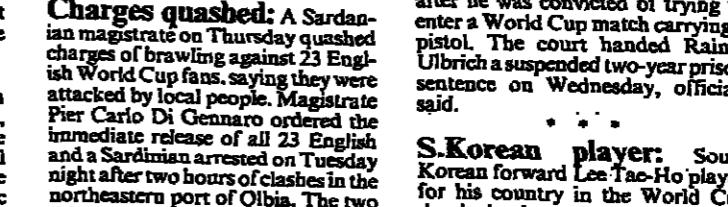
Belgium's soccer fans walk past a Spanish national team poster as they arrive early on Thursday at the Verona stadium for the Belgium-Spain game. (Reuter wirephoto)

two years ago when he lost his left eye after a collision with another player who was trying a scissor kick as he went for a header. The opponent's boot struck permanently damaged Lee's left retina.

**Italian players:** Italian coach Azeglio Vicini yesterday named forward Roberto Baggio and Salvatore Schillaci to start the second-round match against Uruguay on Monday. "If Baggio and Schillaci come through our next three practices in good shape, then they will both play," Vicini told reporters at the Italians training camp.

**British minister:** British Minister of Sport Colin Moynihan will arrive to keep English fans from misbehaving. World Cup organisers said today, Moynihan will meet with local government officials and visit the Dallara stadium, where England will play Belgium in a second-round match on Tuesday.

**Romanian players:** Romanian defender Gheorghe Popescu has attracted interest from a number of teams with his impressive World Cup performances. Corriere Dello Sport reported today. Among the interested in signing Popescu are FC Cologne of West Germany and Italian First Division teams Lecce and Bari. The Italian sports daily said. Goalkeeper Silvio Lung is set to join Spanish Second Division team Real Burgos.



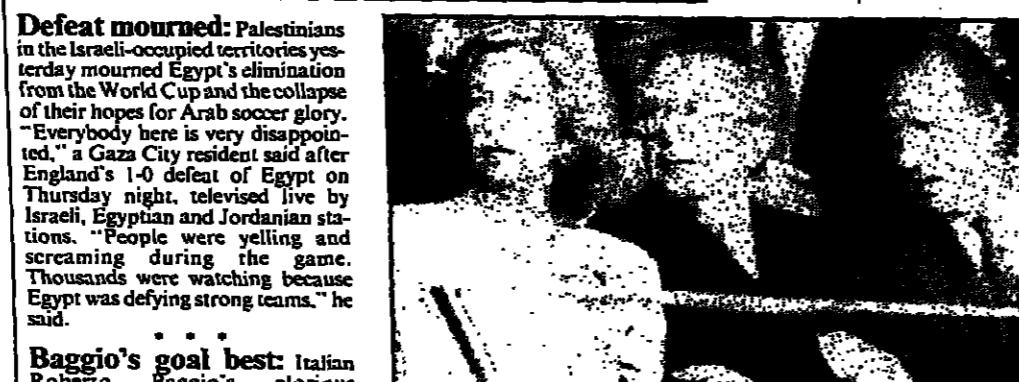
Argentina's retreat outside Rome. "I didn't ask the coach for the first team place and he didn't offer it to me," Comizzo said before his first practice with the squad.

**Austrian deported:** Italy has deported a 32-year-old Austrian who was convicted of trying to enter a World Cup match carrying a pistol. The court handed Rainer Ulbrich a suspended two-year prison sentence on Wednesday, officials said.

**Charges quashed:** A Sardinian magistrate on Thursday quashed the charge of drawing against 23 English World Cup fans, saying they were attacked by local people. Magistrate Pier Carlo Di Gennaro ordered the immediate release of all 23 English and a Sardinian arrested on Tuesday night after two hours of clashes in the northeastern port of Olbia. The two sides pelted each other with police and rocks and bottles.

**Female audience:** Italy's passion for the World Cup is shared by more than 10 million women and most of the country's children are being allowed to stay up late to watch matches, according to television ratings. Viewership figures released by the state television network Rai showed nearly 83 per cent of children aged from four to 14 watched Italy beat Czechoslovakia on Wednesday. The match ended just before 11 pm.

**Extra goalkeeper:** Angel Comizzo of Argentine champions River Plate has joined his country's World Cup squad to fill the gap left by the injured Nery Pumpido. Comizzo flew in from Buenos Aires on Thursday to join the squad at



Italy's Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti sits between Spain's King Juan Carlos and his wife Queen Sophie during the Spain-Belgium match on Thursday. (Reuter wirephoto)

**Swedish team:** Sweden's soccer team came home on Thursday to a chorus of derision over their poor showing in the World Cup finals and calls for team manager Ole Nordin's resignation. "Fiasco" and "Resign Nordin" screamed the headlines in Swedish newspapers which greeted the Swedish squad at Stockholm's Arlanda Airport.

**100th yellow card:** The Uruguayan midfielder Ruben Paz gained the dubious distinction of being the 100th player to be shown a yellow card at the World Cup on Thursday. Paz was booked for a foul one minute before halftime in the 1-0 win over South Korea which took Uruguay into the last 16.

**War of words:** Jack Charlton, the Englishman revered as an honorary Irishman for guiding Ireland to the World Cup finals, has sparked a war of words over a row with a sportswriter. Charlton stormed out of a press conference in Palermo on Wednesday after refusing to answer questions from columnist and former player Eamonn Dunphy, who condemned the team's draw against Egypt as "a disgrace to the nation." But in Ireland, the national union of journalists sprang to Dunphy's defense, radio talk-in lines were buzzing and one newspaper launched a who is right poll.

**Players eyed:** Italian club Torino, promoted to the First Division next season, are interested in signing England World Cup striker Gary Lineker. Italian sports papers said on Wednesday Torino were also reported to have reached agreement with Spanish midfielder Rafael Martín Vázquez, who said last month he was leaving champions Real Madrid.

**Alcohol ban:** A magistrate on Thursday overruled Italy's World Cup alcohol ban, saying it was



A Dutch fan with a new football hat. (Reuter wirephoto)